

ASA Team Insurance for 2007

The most valuable player on your team for 2007 could be the ASA Insurance Plan! The ASA Plan provides the accident benefits and liability coverage your teams needs.

ASA TEAM ACCIDENT & LIABILITY COVERAGES

- ASA Team Accident Insurance provides a \$250,000 Excess Medical Expense benefit for injuries to your players.
- Various deductible options offer you additional savings.
- The ASA Team Liability Insurance Plan provides your team with \$2,000,000 in protection for lawsuits brought against you for bodily injury or property damage claims arising out of your team's games, practices or fundraising activities.

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

Many ASA Associations are requiring Individual Registration for their Junior Olympic teams. One benefit of Individual Registration is that Liability and Accident Insurance are automatically provided as part of the ASA membership fee. If your local ASA Commissioner is using Individual Registration, you do not need to purchase the ASA Team Insurance Plan. Contact your ASA Commissioner or Bollinger for more information.

2007 ASA Junior Olympic Team Insurance Plans						
Package Plan (Includes Accident and Liability Insurance)	League Rates*		Single Team Rates			
Accident Deductible	12 & Under	13 – 19 yrs	12 & Under	13 – 19 yrs		
\$250	\$81	\$117	\$152	\$185		
\$100	\$103	\$129	\$190	\$213		
\$0	\$144	\$162	\$223	\$260		

2007 ASA Adult Team Insurance Plans						
Package Plan (Includes						
Accident and Liability Insurance)	League Rates*		Single Team Rates			
Accident Deductible	w/Waivers	No Waiver				
\$500	\$216	\$234	\$397			
\$250	\$270	\$290	\$471			
\$100	\$304	\$318	\$512			

^{*}To qualify for discounted League Rates, ALL TEAMS in your league must purchase the insurance plan (minimum of four teams) and apply on one enrollment form.



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2007 Official Rules of Softball

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THE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Umpire Edition

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The President's Message

The Amateur Softball Association of America had a good year in 2006 and looks forward to an even better year in 2007. Our National team's program remains strong, our Men have again qualified for the World Championship's and our Women's team won their sixth straight World Championship. The U.S. World University games team took home the Gold showing a bright hope for the future.



The Championship Tournament Programs continues to be strong showing growth in both numbers and quality of play. The Hooter's Championship Series is clearly the best program anywhere in adult slow pitch and I believe we owe a debt of gratitude to our sponsor Hooters, and to the hard work and dedication of our National Staff

The local associations appear to have turned the corner, showing stable and in most area's growth nearly across the board.

I remain very concerned about our future in the Olympics' and assure you that the board of Director's, staff and I are all doing everything we can do to restore our sport to the program. We believe that both the Women's and the Men's program should be Olympic Sports and adding Co-Ed Slow Pitch and Paralympics disciplines would be great.

I have appointed a special committee to seek solutions to the continuing decline of adult fast pitch and believe there is a bright hope for the future in this program.

ASA will continue to be aggressive and vigilant in monitoring the equipment to protect the integrity of our sport.

Finally, I thank each player, coach, manager, team parent, scorekeeper, league officer, umpire, and UIC, sponsor, organizer and administrator nation wide for continuing to make our sport the best in the World. It is only through the team efforts of all of us that we succeed

1 Stephen Monson

The Executive Director's Message

As the National Governing Body of softball in the United States, the ASA takes its responsibility very seriously. The 85 local association commissioners and their support staffs are continually working to find ways to improve our programs and to provide you with the best softball experience possible.

In 2006, the ASA National Championships were again a huge success, as over 2,300 teams battled for the right to be called "Best of the Best." With expanded championships in the Junior Olympic division more teams were given the opportunity to compete in championship play than ever before.

compete in championship play than ever before.

The ASA Hooters Championship Series continues to shine as the marquee slow pitch championship in the country. Teams from across the nation competed in championship play hoping to earn the opportunity to

from across the nation competed in championship play hoping to earn the opportunity to represent their side of the country in Oklahoma City. Twelve teams from seven different states advanced to determine the true champion in Men's Class B, C and D and Women's Open, Class C and D slow pitch. In the end it was the teams from the East that walked away with bragging rights after capturing five of the six classifications.

The USA Softball Women's National Team reestablished itself as the top team in the world in 2006 by capturing the II World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City, the ISF Women's World Championship in Beijing, China and the Japan Cup in Yokohama, Japan. It was the sixth consecutive World Championship for the Women's National Team program and secured the top seed at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Fans that were not able to travel to Beijing for the World Championships got the opportunity to see its team in action during the II World Cup of Softball. Record television ratings on ESPN and ESPN2, along with overflow crowds has established the World Cup of Softball as one of the top softball events in the world. Because of this overwhelming support we are happy to have the III World Cup of Softball back in Oklahoma City in 2007.

As a former player and administrator of local leagues I know what it takes to be successful. All of you that play the sport, coach the games, umpire the competition, administer and organize leagues and tournaments are to be commended for your skills, energy and spirit that has continued to make softball one of the top participant sports in the country.

We realize you have a choice when it comes to what league you play in and we are excited that you have chosen to play ASA. We vow to do everything within our power to make it a very memorable experience for you and your team. And remember as long as you play ASA, you are playing with the "Best of the Best".

An Blyil

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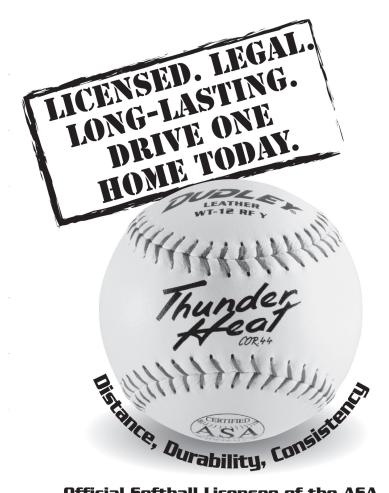


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Hooters ASA Women's East Class D S	P
Hooters ASA Women's East Open SP	
Hooters ASA Women's West Class C S	SP
Hooters ASA Women's West Class D S	SP
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ASA Men's Senior Class 50 Major Plus	s SP
ASA Men's Senior Class 55 AA SP	
ASA Men's Senior Class 55 AAA SP	
ASA Men's Senior Class 55 Major Plus	s
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ASA Men's Senior Class 60 AAA SP	
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ASA Boys' 18-U FP

ASA Girls' A 10-U FP Fastern

ASA Girls' A 10-U FP Northern

ASA Girls' A 10-U FP Western

ASA Girls' A 12-U FP Eastern

ASA Girls' A 12-U FP Northern

ASA Girls' A 12-U FP Southern

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Hometown

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Men's Major Fast Pitch Women's Major Fast Pitch Men's Class A Fast Pitch Women's Class A Fast Pitch Men's Class B Fast Pitch Women's Class B Fast Pitch Men's Class C Fast Pitch Women's Class C Fast Pitch Men's Masters 40-Over Fast Pitch Men's Masters 45-Over Fast Pitch Men's Masters 50-Over Fast Pitch Men's 23-U Fast Pitch Women's 23-U Fast Pitch Boy's 18-U Fast Pitch Boy's 16-U Fast Pitch Boy's 14-U Fast Pitch Boy's 12-U Fast Pitch Boy's 10-U Fast Pitch Girl's GOLD 18-U Fast Pitch USA / ASA Girl's 18-U A Fast Pitch USA / ASA Girl's 16-U A Fast Pitch USA / ASA Girl's 14-U A Fast Pitch USA / ASA Girl's 12-U A Fast Pitch USA / ASA Girl's 10-U A Fast Pitch ASA Girl's 10-U A Fast Pitch – Eastern ASA Girl's 10-U A Fast Pitch - Southern ASA Girl's 10-LLA Fast Pitch - Western ASA Girl's 10-U A Fast Pitch - Northern ASA Girl's 12-U A Eastern ASA Girl's 12-U A Southern ASA Girl's 12-U A Western ASA Girl's 12-U A Northern ASA Girl's 14-U A Fastern

ASA Girl's 14-U A Southern ASA Girl's 14-U A Western ASA Girl's 14-U A Northern ASA Girl's 16-U A Eastern ASA Girl's 16-U A Southern ASA Girl's 16-U A Western ASA Girl's 16-U A Northern ASA Girl's 18-U A Eastern ASA Girl's 18-U A Southern ASA Girl's 18-U A Western ASA Girl's 18-U A Northern Girl's 18-U B Fast Pitch - Eastern Girl's 16-U B Fast Pitch - Eastern Girl's 14-U B Fast Pitch - Eastern Girl's 12-U B Fast Pitch - Eastern Girl's 10-U B Fast Pitch - Eastern Girl's 18-U B Fast Pitch - Western Girl's 16-U B Fast Pitch - Western Girl's 14-U B Fast Pitch - Western Girl's 12-U B Fast Pitch - Western Girl's 10-U B Fast Pitch - Western Girl's 18-U B Fast Pitch-Northern Girl's 16-U B Fast Pitch-Northern Girl's 14-U B Fast Pitch-Northern Girl's 12-U B Fast Pitch-Northern Girl's 10-U B Fast Pitch-Northern

Girl's 18-U B Fast Pitch-Southern

Girl's 16-U B Fast Pitch-Southern

Girl's 14-U B Fast Pitch-Southern

South Bend, IN South Bend, IN Rockford II Prescott A7 Altamonte Springs, FL Prescott, AZ Killeen, TX Prescott, AZ Hoover Al Gadsden, AL Mobile, AL North Mankato, MN Stratford, CT

North Mankato, MN Oklahoma City, OK College Station, TX Sioux Falls, SD Normal II Roseville, CA Auburn, AL York, PA Ridgeland, MS Beaverton OR Brooklyn Park, MN York, PA Tallahassee, FL

Portland, OR

Brooklyn Park, MN

Sterling, VA Broken Arrow, OK Phoenix, AZ Bloomington, IN Sterling, VA Fort Worth, TX Sunnyvale, CA Burlington, IA York, PA Plant City, FL Lancaster, CA St. Ann, MO Sunbury, PA Sunbury, PA Harrisburg, PA Harrisburg, PA Harrisburg, PA Spokane, WA

Salem, OR Stockton, CA Phoenix, AZ Las Cruces, NM St. Ann. MO Owensboro, KY Bloomington, IN Salina, KS Springfield, MO Tulsa, OK Clinton, MS

TBA

August 2-5 August 4-7 August 30-September 3

August 9-12 August 29-September 3

August 9-12 August 29-September 3 August 9-12 August 22-26 September 6-9 July 6-9

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August 1-5

August 1-5

41

Girl's 12-U B Fast Pitch-Southern August 1-5 Garland, TX August 1-5 Girl's 10-U B Fast Pitch-Southern Gadsden, AL 2007 SLOW PITCH **USA Championship Series** Oklahoma City, OK September 27-30 Women's Open Slow Pitch Oklahoma City, OK September 27-30 Oklahoma City, OK Men's Class A Slow Pitch September 27-30 Men's Class B Slow Pitch - East Seminole County, FL August 30-September 3 Men's Class B Slow Pitch - West Waxahachie, TX August 30-September 3 Men's Class C Slow Pitch - East Montgomery, AL August 30-September 3 Men's Class C Slow Pitch -West Portland, OR August 30-September 3 Women's Class C Slow Pitch - East Dothan, AL August 30-September 3 Women's Class C Slow Pitch - West Salem, OR August 30-September 3 Men's Class D Slow Pitch - East Salem, VA August 30-September 3 Men's Class D Slow Pitch - West Lancaster, CA August 30-September 3 Men's Class D Slow Pitch-North Toneka KS August 30-September 3 Men's Class D Slow Pitch-South McAllen TX August 30-September 3 Women's Class D Slow Pitch - East Auburndale, FL August 30-September 3 Women's Class D Slow Pitch - West San Antonio, TX August 30-September 3 Men's Industrial Slow Pitch LaGrange, GA August 24-26 Men's Church Slow Pitch Tallahassee, FL August 10-12 Men's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch Augusta, GA September 7-9 August 10-12 Women's Masters' 35-Over Slow Pitch Gadsden, AL Men's Masters 40-Over Slow Pitch Decatur, AL August 24-26 Men's Masters 45-Over Slow Pitch Jackson, MS September 7-9 Men's Senior 50-Over Slow Pitch Burlington, NC August 31-September 3 Men's Senior 55-Over Slow Pitch Burlington, NC August 31-September 3 Men's Senior 60-Over Slow Pitch Burlington, NC August 31-September 3 Men's Senior 65-Over Slow Pitch Burlington, NC August 31-September 3 Men's Senior 70-Over Slow Pitch Burlington, NC August 31-September 3 Men's Senior 75-Over Slow Pitch Burlington, NC August 31-September 3 Men's Major 16-Inch Slow Pitch Marshalltown, IA August 31-September 3 Men's Class A 16-Inch Slow Pitch Mt. Prospect. IL. August 31-September 3 Co-ed Major Slow Pitch Rochester MN September 14-16 Co-ed Class A Slow Pitch Alton, IL August 23-26 Co-ed Class B Slow Pitch Dallas, TX August 23-26 Industrial Co-ed Slow Pitch Pendina Pendina Boy's 18-U Slow Pitch Pendina July 18-22 Boy's 16-U Slow Pitch Pending July 18-22 Boy's 14-U Slow Pitch Pendina July 18-22 Boy's 12-U Slow Pitch Pending July 18-22 July 18-22 Boy's 10-U Slow Pitch Pending Girl's 18-U Slow Pitch Columbus, GA July 26-29 Girl's 16-U Slow Pitch Columbus, GA July 26-29 Girl's 14-U Slow Pitch Columbus, GA July 26-29 Girl's 12-U Slow Pitch Columbus, GA July 26-29 Girl's 10-U Slow Pitch Clinton, MS July 26-29 2007 MODIFIED PITCH Women's Modified Pitch Pending August 10-12 Men's Modified Pitch (9) A Spokane, WA August 31-September 3 Men's Modified Pitch (9) Major Spokane, WA August 31-September 3 Men's Modified Pitch (10) Marietta, GA August 31-September 3 2007 NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS 8U Coach Pitch Ft. Smith. AR July 20-22 8U Coach Pitch Mobile Bay, AL June 28

2008 Slow Pitch USA Championship Series Women's Open Slow Pitch Men's Class A Slow Pitch Men's Class B Slow Pitch West Men's Class B Slow Pitch East Men's Class C Slow Pitch Northern Men's Class C Slow Pitch Eastern Men's Class C Slow Pitch Southern Men's Class C Slow Pitch Western Men's Class D Slow Pitch Northern Men's Class D Slow Pitch Eastern Men's Class D Slow Pitch Southern Men's Class D Slow Pitch Western Men's Major 16-Inch Slow Pitch Men's Class A 16-Inch Slow Pitch Men's Masters 35-Over Slow Pitch Men's Master 40-Over Slow Pitch Men's Masters 45-Over Slow Pitch Men's Senior 50-Over Slow Pitch Men's Senior 55-Over Slow Pitch Men's Senior 60-Over Slow Pitch Men's Senior 65-Over Slow Pitch Men's Senior 70-Over Slow Pitch Men's Senior 75-Over Slow Pitch Men's Church Slow Pitch Men's Industrial Slow Pitch Coed Major Slow Pitch Coed Class A Slow Pitch Coed Class B Slow Pitch Coed Industrial Slow Pitch Women's Class C Slow Pitch East Women's Class C Slow Pitch West Women's Class D Slow Pitch Fast Women's Class D Slow Pitch West Women's Master 35-Over Slow Pitch Boy's 18-Under Slow Pitch Boy's 16-Under Slow Pitch Boy's 14-Under Slow Pitch Boy's 12-Under Slow Pitch

Boy's 10-Under Slow Pitch Girl's 18-Under Slow Pitch Girl's 16-Under Slow Pitch Girl's 14-Under Slow Pitch Girl's 12-Under Slow Pitch Girl's 10-Under Slow Pitch 2008 Fast Pitch

Women's Major Fast Pitch Women's Class A Fast Pitch Women's Class B Fast Pitch Women's Class C Fast Pitch Women's 23-Under Fast Pitch Men's Major Fast Pitch Men's Class A Fast Pitch Men's Class B Fast Pitch Men's Class C Fast Pitch Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch Men's 40-Over Fast Pitch Men's 45-Over Fast Pitch Men's 50-Over Fast Pitch Girls' 18-Under Gold Fast Pitch USA ASA Girls' 10-Under A Fastpitch Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma City, OK Oklahoma City, OK San Antonio, TX Auburndale, FL Moorhead, MN Salem, VA Bryan/College Station, TX Lancaster, CA Bismarck ND Columbus, OH Marietta, GA Seattle, WA Mt. Prospect, IL Cedar Rapids, IA Killeen TX Dallas, TX Roseville, CA Burlington, NC Burlington, NC Burlington, NC Burlington, NC Burlington, NC Burlington, NC Decatur, AL Tallahassee, FL Dothan Al Tallahassee FI LaGrange, GA Phoenix, AZ Augusta, GA Waxahachie, TX

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Lawton, OK

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Fort Myers, FL

Seminole County, FL

Amherst, NY Salem, OR Salem, OR Salem OR Auburn Al Pending Pendina McAllen, TX Prescott, AZ Brandon, SD Minot, ND Springfield, MO Fort Worth, TX Oklahoma City, OK September 25-25 September 25-28 September 25-28 August 28-September 1 August 29-September 1 August 29-September 1 September 5-7 August 22-August 24 September 5-7 August 29-September 1 August 8-10 August 22-24 September 18-21 August 21-24 August 21-24 August 29-August 31 August 28-September 1 August 28-September 1 August 28-September 1 August 28-September 1

August 8-10

August 8-10 August 7-10 August 7-10 August 7-10 July August 1-3 August 28-September 1 August 27-September 1 August 27-September 1 July 31-August 3 August 20-24 September 11-14 September 26-28 August 3-10 July 27-August 3

Bloomington, IN

USA ASA Girls' 12-Under A Fastpitch USA ASA Girls' 14-Under A Fastpitch USA ASA Girls' 16-Under A Fastpitch USA ASA Girls' 18-Under A Fastpitch ASA Girls' 10-Under A Fastpitch Eastern ASA Girls' 12-Under A Fastpitch Eastern ASA Girls' 14-Under A Fastpitch Eastern ASA Girls' 16-Under A Fastpitch Eastern ASA Girls' 18-Under A Fastpitch Eastern ASA Girls' 10-Under A Fastpitch Northern ASA Girls' 12-Under A Fastpitch Northern ASA Girls' 14-Under A Fastpitch Northern ASA Girls' 16-Under A Fastpitch Northern ASA Girls' 18-Under A Fastpitch Northern ASA Girls' 10-Under A Fastpitch Southern ASA Girls' 12-Under A Fastpitch Southern ASA Girls' 14-Under A Fastpitch Southern ASA Girls' 16-Under A Fastpitch Southern ASA Girls' 18-Under A Fastpitch Southern ASA Girls' 10-Under A Fastpitch Western ASA Girls' 12-Under A Fastpitch Western ASA Girls' 14-Under A Fastpitch Western ASA Girls' 16-Under A Fastpitch Western ASA Girls' 18-Under A Fastpitch Western Girls' 10-Under Class B Fastpitch Eastern Girls' 12-Under Class B Fastpitch Eastern Girls' 14-Under Class B Fastpitch Eastern Girls' 16-Under Class B Fastpitch Eastern Girls' 18-Under Class B Fastpitch Eastern Girls' 10-Under Class B Fastpitch Northern Girls' 12-Under Class B Fastpitch Northern Girls' 14-Under Class B Fastpitch Northern Girls' 16-Under Class B Fastpitch Northern Girls' 18-Under Class B Fastnitch Northern Girls' 10-Under Class B Fastpitch Southern Girls' 12-Under Class B Fastpitch Southern Girls' 14-Under Class B Fastpitch Southern Girls' 16-Under Class B Fastpitch Southern Girls' 18-Under Class B Fastpitch Southern Girls' 10-Under Class B Fastpitch Western Girls' 12-Under Class B Fastpitch Western Girls' 14-Under Class B Fastpitch Western Girls' 16-Under Class B Fastpitch Western Girls' 18-Under Class B Fastpitch Western Boy's 18-Under Fast Pitch Boy's 16-Under Fast Pitch Boy's 14-Under Fast Pitch Boy's 12-Under Fast Pitch

2008 Modified Pitch

Boy's 10-Under Fast Pitch

Men's (9) A Modified Pitch Men's (9) Major Modified Pitch Men's (10) Modified Pitch Montgomery, AL Midland, TX Owensboro, KY Moline II Salem, VA Salem, VA Salem, VA York, PA Salem, VA South Bend IN South Bend, IN St. Louis, MO Topeka, KS Rochester, MN Fort Worth, TX Tulsa OK Clinton MS Altamonte Springs, FL Ridgeland, MS Phoenix, AZ Phoenix, AZ Clovis CA Portland, OR Seattle, WA York, PA York, PA Salem, VA Salem VA Salem VA Cambridge, MN Springfield, MO Springfield, MO Overland Park, KS Overland Park KS Broken Arrow, OK Gadsden, AL Columbus, GA Garland, TX Mobile, AL Las Vegas, NV Las Vegas, NV Salem, OR Rock Springs, WY Aurora, CO Brandon, SD Brandon, SD Brandon, SD

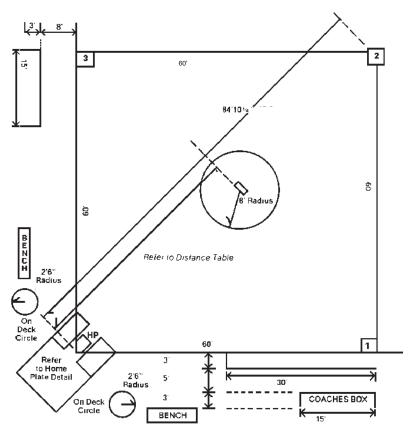
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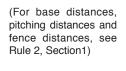
Brandon, SD

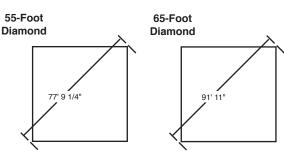
Brandon, SD

July 27-August 3 July 27-August 3 July 27-August 3 July 27-August 3 July 30-August 3 July 30August 3 July 30-August 3

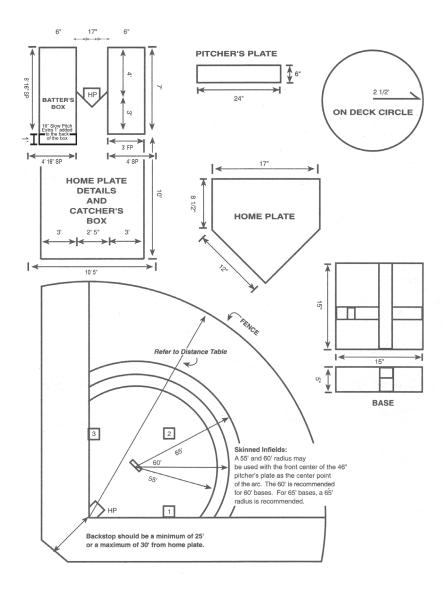
FIELD DIMENSIONS







FIELD DIMENSIONS



Rule 1: Line-up card: The official document listing players and substitutes of a given team.

Comment: To define a term commonly used throughout the rule book.

Rule 1: Play: An attempt by a defensive player to retire a batter-runner or runner. A pitch is not considered a play except as it relates to an appeal.

Comment: To define a term commonly used throughout the rule book.

Rule 2 Section 1: Change the fence minimum and maximum distance for Girls' Junior Olympic Fast Pitch to the following:

G10-U from 150' to 200' to 175' to 225' G12-U from 175' to 200' to 200' to 225' G14-U from 175' to 200' to 200' to 225'

Comments: These classifications of players are very good athletes and this will provide more consistency in our Junior Olympic program.

Rule 2 Section 3C: The batter's box for SLOW PITCH, excluding 16-Inch Slow Pitch, will measure 4' W X 7' L

Comments: This rule change was requested by the players for the betterment of the Slow Pitch game.

Rule 3 Section 4: The pitcher's glove may be of one solid color or multicolored as long as the color(s) are not the color of the ball being used in the game being played.

Comments: The rule is designed to have a glove that will not distract the batter. The color can be any color that does not match the color of the ball.

Rule 3 Section 6D: An Arabic whole number of contrasting color or outlined in contrasting color...

Comments: The purpose of the previous rule was to make the numbers distinguishable and outlining the numbers does this as effectively as making the numbers contrasting colors.

Rule 4 Section 1C 3c & d: Men's Senior Slow Pitch; Teams have the option of having all their players in the batting order. The Shorthanded rule will be in effect if a player in the batting order leaves the game.

Comments: Senior Slow Pitch players want to play and this allows all players that come to game to participate. If a player leaves the batting order an out will be called each time they are supposed to bat as the Shorthanded rule requires.

Rule 5 Section 5A: One run shall score each time a runner

- Touches first base, second base, third base and home plate; or
- 2) When using the Tie-Breaker rule, a runner starting at 2nd base, touches third base and home plate.

Comments: Clarifies a method by which a run can score when using the Tie-Breaker rule.

Rule 5 Section 8A 3: Master's Slow Pitch 35-Over, 40-Over, and 45-Over will allow 4 over the fence home runs per team.

Comments: This allows these classifications an additional over the fence home run per team.

Rule 5 Section 8A EFFECT: On any over the fence home run in Men's Class D Slow Pitch Classification, the batter is called out and the inning is over regardless of the number of outs prior to the over the fence home run.

Comments: For the betterment of ASA Slow Pitch Softball.

Rule 5 Section 10: When the time limit rule is in effect, time begins with the first pitch. If the game is tied after the time limit has expired, the tie breaker rule shall be in effect at the start of the next inning and play shall continue until a winner is determined. The time limit rule is as follows:

- A) In Junior Olympic 10-Under Class A and 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch pool play, the time limit will be one hour and fifteen minutes, finish the inning and play one more inning, if it is not a complete game.
- B) In Junior Olympic 10-Under Class A and 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch elimination play, no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- C) In all Junior Olympic Class A 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under; Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under; and Gold pool play; no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- D) In all Junior Olympic Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under elimination play; no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes.

EXCEPTION: In all Junior Olympic Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under elimination play there will be no time limit for the upper and lower bracket final games, and the championship and the 'if necessary' games.

COMMENT: This rule now conforms to Code Article 510 O.

Rule 6 Section 3F: Fast Pitch The pitch shall be delivered on the throwing arm side of the body and not behind the back or between the legs.

Comments: This will clarify that the pitch can not be thrown behind the back or between the legs.

Rule 6 Section 3H: Men's Fast Pitch: Remove the words 'within the 24 inch length of the pitcher's Plate'.

Comments: For the betterment of ASA Men' Fast Pitch Softball

Rule 6 Section 3H: Modified: The pitch shall be delivered on the throwing arm side of the body and not behind the back or between the legs.

Comments: This will clarify that the pitch can not be thrown behind the back or between the legs.

Rule 7 Section 6B: When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an altered or non-approved bat. EFFECT: The batter shall be **EJECTED** from the game and if in a tournament shall be **EJECTED** for the remainder of the tournament. Remove the **NOTE**.

Comments: Reflects how the ASA code is written.

Rule 7 Section 6Q: When actively hindering the catcher while in the batter's box.

Comments: Removes 'intentionally' from the rule and allows the umpire to judge interference and not intent. It also matches the rule to the definition.

Rule 8 Section 2F 3: When a batter-runner interferes with a thrown ball while out of the batter's box.

Comments: Removes 'intentionally' from the rule and allows the umpire to judge interference and not intent. It also matches the rule to the definition.

Rule 8 Section 4G: (10-Under Class B Fast Pitch)

Comments: The section on stealing and running the bases in 10-Under now only applies to 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch. 10-Under Class A Fast Pitch will play by the same rules as the other Junior Olympic Fast Pitch age classifications.

Rule 8 Section 7E: When any offensive team member other than another runner physically assists a runner while the ball is live.

Comments: The rule as written last year could have been interpreted that if a defensive person helped the runner an out could have been called. This is why the wording 'anyone' was changed to 'offensive team member'.

Rule 8 Section 7J 3: When a runner interferes with a thrown ball.

Comments: Removes 'intentionally' from the rule and allows the umpire to judge interference and not intent. It also matches the rule to the definition.

Rule 8 Section 7P: When, after being declared out or after scoring, a batter-runner, or a runner interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play on another runner.

Comments: This rule now clarifies the previous interpretation that the batter-runner was also included. It also removes 'intentionally' from the rule and allows the umpire to judge interference and not intent. It also matches the rule to the definition.

2007 PLAYING RULES

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OFFICIAL SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

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Where (Fast Pitch) is shown, Modified Pitch rules are followed the same as fast pitch with the exception of the pitching rule. Where (Slow Pitch) is shown, 16" slow pitch rules are followed the same as slow pitch with the exception of the pitching rule.

The words "Junior Olympic" or the initials "JO" refer to youth softball.

New rules and/or changes are in bold letters in each shaded section. Housekeeping changes are shaded, but not bold.

Read the "Points of Emphasis" at the end of the rules to clarify various selected rules.

RULE 1 - DEFINITIONS

- ALTERED BAT: When the physical structure of a legal softball bat has been changed.
- **APPEAL PLAY:** A play on a rule violation on which an umpire may not make a decision until requested by a manager, coach or player.
- **BALL COMPRESSION:** The load force, in pounds, required to compress a softball 0.250 inches when measured in accordance with the ASTM test method for measuring compression-displacement of softballs.
- **BALL COR:** The coefficient of restitution of a softball when measured in accordance with the ASTM test method for measuring coefficient of restitution of softballs.
- **BASE ON BALLS:** Permits a batter to gain first base when four pitches are judged to be out of the strike zone.
- **BASE LINE:** An imaginary line directly between bases.
- **BASE PATH:** A line directly between a base and the runner's position at the time a defensive player is attempting to tag that runner.
- **BATTED BALL:** Any pitched ball that hits the bat or is hit by the bat and lands either in fair territory or foul territory.
- **BATTER'S BOX:** The area to which the batter is restricted when batting.
- **BATTER-RUNNER:** A player who has completed a turn at bat but has not yet been put out or reached first base.

- **BATTING ORDER:** The official listing of offensive players in the order in which they bat.
- **BLOCKED BALL:** A batted, pitched or thrown ball that is touched, stopped or handled by a person not engaged in the game, or which touches loose equipment or any object that is not part of the official equipment or official playing area.
- **BLOOD RULE:** Refers to a player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform and treatment is required.

BUNT: A pitched ball that is intentionally tapped with the bat, slowly, within the infield.

CATCH/NO CATCH:

- A. A catch is a legally caught ball, which occurs when the fielder catches a batted, pitched or thrown ball with the hand(s) or glove/mitt.
 - To establish a valid catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove control of it and/or that the release of the ball is voluntary.
 - If the ball is merely held in the fielder's arm(s) or prevented from dropping to the ground by some part of the fielder's body, equipment or clothing, the catch is not completed until the ball is in the grasp of the fielder's hand(s) or glove.
 - 3. The fielder's feet must be within the field of play, touching the "out of play" line or in the air after leaving live ball territory in order to have a valid catch. A player who is "out of play" and returns must have both feet touching live ball territory or one foot touching and the other in the air, for the catch to be legal.
- B. It is not a catch:
 - If a fielder, while gaining control, collides with another player, umpire or a fence, or falls to the ground and drops the ball as a result of the collision or falling to the ground.
 - 2. If a ball strikes anything other than a defensive player while it is in flight is the same as if it struck the ground.
 - 3. When a fielder catches a batted or thrown ball with anything other than the hand(s) or glove in its proper place.

CATCH AND CARRY: A legal catch that a defensive player carries into dead ball territory.

- **CATCHER'S BOX:** The area to which the catcher is restricted while catching. The catcher must remain in the box until:
 - A. (Fast Pitch) The pitch is released.
 - B. (Slow Pitch) The pitched ball is:
 - 1. Batted.
 - 2. Touches the ground, plate, or batter.
 - 3. Reaches the catcher's box.

- **CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY:** When used in the The ASA Softball Playing Rules, the term "Championship Play" shall have the same meaning as is assigned to such term by the ASA Code.
- **CHARGED CONFERENCE:** When a team representative requests a suspension of play or delays the game for the purpose of delivering a message to another team member:
- CHOPPED BALL: (Slow Pitch) Occurs when the batter strikes downward with a chopping motion of the bat.
- **COACH:** A person who occupies the coach's box and / or assists in the direction of their team representatives on the field.
- **COACH'S BOX:** The area in which the two base coaches (one per box) are restricted to prior to the release of the pitch.
- COURTESY RUNNER: (Senior Slow Pitch, Master's and Senior Fast Pitch and J.O. Girls and Boys Fast Pitch) Any player who runs for a runner without a charged substitution
- **CROW HOP:** (Fast Pitch) Defined as the act of a pitcher who steps, hops or drags off the front of the pitcher's plate, replants the pivot foot, thereby establishing a second impetus (or starting point), pushes off from the newly established starting point and completes the delivery.

DEAD BALL.: A ball that is not in play.

DEFENSIVE TEAM: The team in the field

DESIGNATED PLAYER (DP): The player who is initially on the line-up card in the team's batting order but not in the defensive line-up.

DISLODGED BASE: A base displaced from its proper position.

DISQUALIFIED PLAYER: A player removed from the game for a rule violation.

DOUBLE PLAY: A play by the defense in which two offensive players are legally put out as a result of continuous action.

DUGOUT/ TEAM AREA: An out-of-play area designated for players and team representatives.

EJECTED PARTICIPANT: A team representative removed from the game by the umpire, usually for an unsportsmanlike act or conduct.

EXTRA PLAYER (EP): An optional player(s) in slow pitch.

FAIR BALL: A legally batted ball that:

- A. Settles or is touched on or over fair territory between home and first base or between home and third base.
- B. Bounds over or past first or third base, which is in fair territory, regardless of where the ball hits after going over the base.
- C. While on or over fair territory, touches the person, attached equipment or clothing of a player or an umpire.
- D. While over fair territory, a runner interferes with a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball
- E. Touches first, second or third base.
- F. First falls or is first touched on or over fair territory beyond first, second or third base.
- G. While over fair territory, passes out of the playing field beyond the outfield fence.
- H. Hits the foul pole.
- **FAIR TERRITORY:** That part of the playing field within, and including, the first and third base foul lines from home plate to the bottom of the playing field fence and perpendicularly upwards.
- **FAKE TAG:** A form of obstruction by a fielder who attempts to tag a runner without the ball and thereby impedes a runner advancing or returning to a base.
- **FIELDER:** Any player of the team in the field.
- **FLEX:** The player who is initially listed in the tenth spot on the line-up card, and may play any defensive position, and may enter the game on offense only in the Designated Player's (DP) batting position.
- FLY BALL: A batted ball, fair or foul, that rises into the air.
- **FORCE OUT:** Is an out which may be made only when a runner loses the right to the base that the runner is occupying because the batter becomes a batter-runner, and before the batter-runner or a succeeding runner has been put out.

FOUL BALL: A batted ball that:

- A. Settles or is touched (not caught) on or over foul territory between home and first base or between home and third base.
- B. Bounds or rolls past first or third base on or over foul territory.
- C. While over foul territory, touches the person, attached or detached equipment or clothing of a player or an umpire, or any object foreign to the natural ground.
- While over foul territory, a runner interferes with a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball.
- E. First hits the ground over foul territory beyond first or third base.
- F. Touches the batter or the bat in the batter's hand(s) a second time while the batter is within the batter's box
- G. Goes directly from the bat to any part of the catcher's body or equipment and is caught by another fielder.
- Hits the pitcher's plate and rolls untouched to foul territory before reaching first or third base

FOUL TIP: A batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's hand(s) or glove/mitt and is legally caught by the catcher.

HOME TEAM: Shall be designated by mutual agreement or by a flip of a coin.

ILLEGAL BAT: A bat that does not meet the requirements of an official bat or warm-up bat.

ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL: Occurs when the batter hits the ball fair or foul and:

- A. When, at the time the bat makes contact with the ball, the entire foot is completely outside the lines of the batter's box and on the ground.
- B. When, at the time the bat makes contact with the ball, any part of the foot is touching home plate.
- C. An illegal, altered or non-approved bat is used.
- D. When, at the time the bat makes contact with the ball, the batter's entire foot has contacted the ground out of the batter's box and returned to hit the ball while inside the box.
- **ILLEGAL PLAYER:** A player who takes a position in the line-up, either on offense or defense, who does not have a legal right to the position.
- **IN FLIGHT:** The term used for any batted, thrown or pitched ball which has not yet touched the ground or some object or person other than a fielder.
- **IN JEOPARDY:** A term indicating that the ball is in play and an offensive player may be put out.
- **INELIGIBLE PLAYER:** A player who does not meet the requirements of ASA Code.

- **INFIELD:** That portion of the field in fair territory that includes areas normally covered by infielders.
- **INFIELDER:** A fielder who defends the area of the field around first, second, third or shortstop areas.
- **INFIELD FLY:** A fair fly ball, not including a line drive or an attempted bunt which can be caught by an infielder, pitcher or catcher with ordinary effort when first and second or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two outs.
- INNING: That portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three outs for each team. A new inning begins immediately after the final out of the previous inning. EXCEPTION: Men's Class D Slow Pitch when an over the fence home run is hit.
- **INTERFERENCE:** The act of an offensive player or team member, umpire or spectator that impedes, hinders, or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play. Contact is not necessary.
- **JUNIOR OLYMPIC PLAYER:** Any player eligible to participate in the Junior Olympic program. If Junior Olympic players play on an adult team, it is considered playing in an adult league and adult rules will be in effect.
- **LEAPING:** (Fast Pitch) An act by the pitcher when both feet become airborne on the initial move and push from the pitcher's plate.
- **LINE DRIVE:** A batted ball that travels parallel or near the ground through most of its flight.
- LINE-UP CARD: The official document listing players and substitutes of a given team.
- **MANAGER:** The team representative that must have control of their team at all times on and off the field.
- **NON-APPROVED BAT:** A bat that does not meet the ASA specifications and is on the current non-approved bat list.
- **OBSTRUCTION:** The act of a defensive team member:
 - A. Who hinders or impedes a batter from striking at or hitting a pitched ball.
 - B. A fielder, who impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases unless the fielder is:
 - 1. in possession of the ball.
 - 2. in the act of fielding a batted ball.

NOTE: Contact is not necessary to impede the progress of the runner.

OFFENSIVE TEAM: The team at bat.

ON-DECK BATTER: The offensive player who is scheduled to bat next.

- **ON-DECK CIRCLE:** The area nearest their dugout in which the next batter of the offensive team is restricted to before the release of the pitch.
- **OUTFIELD:** That portion of the field in fair territory which is normally covered by outfielders.
- **OUTFIELDER:** A fielder who defends the area of the field that the left, left-center, right-center, and right fielders normally play. (This assists in determining positions for co-ed slow pitch play.)
- **OVER SLIDE:** The act of an offensive player when, as a runner, slides beyond or loses contact with a base the player is attempting to reach.
- OVERTHROW: Occurs when a thrown ball from a fielder goes
 - A. beyond the boundary lines of the playing field (dead ball territory),
 - B. or becomes a blocked ball.
- **PARTICIPANT:** A starting player, substitute, manager, coach or other team representative located in the dugout, team area or playing field.
- **PASSED BALL:** A legally delivered pitch that should have been held or controlled by the catcher with ordinary effort.
- **PIVOT FOOT:** (Fast Pitch) That foot which must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate prior to pushing off. (Slow Pitch) The pivot foot is the foot that the pitcher must keep in contact with the pitcher's plate until the ball is released.
- PLAY: An attempt by a defensive player to retire a batter-runner or runner. A pitch is not considered a play except as it relates to an appeal.
- **PLAY BALL:** The term used by the plate umpire to indicate that play shall start.
- **PROTEST:** A formal request into the decision of an umpire's rule interpretation.
- **QUICK PITCH:** A pitch made by the pitcher with the obvious attempt to catch the batter off balance.
- **RUNNER:** An offensive player who has reached first base and has not yet been put out.

- **SACRIFICE FLY:** Scored when, with fewer than two outs, the batter scores a runner with a fly ball or line drive that is:
 - A. Caught.
 - B. Dropped by any fielder and, in the scorer's judgment, the runner could have scored after the catch had the fly ball or line drive been caught.
- **STARTING PLAYER:** A player listed on the line-up card that is inspected and approved by the plate umpire.
- STEALING: The act of a runner attempting to advance during a pitch:
 - A. (Slow Pitch with stealing) Runners can advance once the pitched ball reaches the front edge of home plate.
 - (Fast Pitch) Runners can advance once the pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand
- **STRIKE ZONE:** That space over any part of home plate, when a batter assumes a natural batting stance adjacent to home plate, between the batter's,
 - A. (Fast Pitch) Arm pits and the top of the knees.
 - B. (Slow Pitch) Back shoulder and the front knee.
- **SUBSTITUTE:** Any member of a team's roster who is not listed as a starting player, or a starting player who re-enters the game.
- **TAG:** A legal tag is the act of a defensive player in:
 - A. Touching a base with any part of the body while holding the ball securely and firmly in the hand or glove or;
 - B. Touching the runner or batter-runner with the ball while securely held in the hand or glove.
- **TIME:** The term used by the umpire to order the suspension of play.
- **TRIPLE PLAY:** A play by the defense in which three offensive players are legally put out as a result of continuous action.
- **TURN AT BAT:** Begins when a player first enters the batter's box and continues until the player is substituted for, put out, or becomes a batter-runner while at bat.
- **WILD PITCH:** A legally delivered pitch that the catcher cannot catch or stop and control with ordinary effort.

RULE 2 - THE PLAYING FIELD

Section 1.The playing field is the area within which the ball may be legally played and fielded. There shall be a clear and unobstructed area between the foul lines and within the radius of the prescribed fence distances from home plate.

OFFICIAL DISTANCE TABLE

Adult	Division	Bases	Pitching	Min. Fence	Max. Fence
Fast	Women	60'	43'	200'	250'
Pitch	Men	60'	46'	225'	275'
Mod.	Women	60'	40'	200'	275'
Pitch	Men	60'	46'	265'	300'
01		0.51	=01	0051	0751
Slow	Women	65'	50'	265'	275'
Pitch	Men	65'	50' 50'	300' 275'	315'
	Co-ed Major	65' 80'	50 53'	275 325'	300'
	iviajui		church or indust		
		iviajoi	charch of mausi	nai is 05 bases	
16-In.	Women	55'	38'	200'	250'
Pitch	Men	60'	38'	250'	300'
Youth	Division	Bases	Pitching	Min. Fence	Max. Fence
Fast	G10-U-A	60'	35'	175'	225'
Pitch	G12-U-A	60'	40'	200'	225'
	G14-U-A	60'	40'	200'	225'
	G16-U-A	60'	40'	200'	225'
	G18-U-A	60'	40'	200'	225'
	G18-U Gold	60'	43'	200'	225'
	G10-U-B	60'	35'	175'	225'
	G12-U-B	60'	40'	200'	225'
	G14-U-B	60'	46'	200'	225'
	G16-U-B	60'	46'	200'	225'
	G18-U-B	60'	46'	225'	250'
Slow	G10-U-A	60'	40'	175'	200'
Pitch	G10-U-A G12-U-A	60'	40 46'	175 175'	200'
FILCH	G12-U-A G14-U-A	65'	50'	225'	250'
	G16-U-A	65'	50'	225'	250'
	G18-U-A	65'	50'	225'	250'
	G10-U-B	60'	40'	200'	225'
	G12-U-B	60'	46'	225'	250'
	G14-U-B	65'	50'	275'	300'
	G16-U-B	65'	50'	275'	300'
	G18-U-B	65'	50'	275'	300'

If the base distances or the pitching distance is found to be at the wrong dimensions during the course of the game, correct the error, with no penalty, and continue playing the game. Every effort should be made by the umpire to obtain the correct dimensions.

RULE 2 - THE PLAYING FIELD

- **Section 2.** Ground or special rules establishing the limits of the playing field may be established by tournament officials. Any obstruction on fair ground less than the prescribed fence distances from home plate should be clearly marked for the umpire's information. If using a baseball field, the mound should be removed and the backstop distances must meet those prescribed (minimum of 25 feet or a maximum of 30 feet from home plate).
- Section 3. For the layout of the diamond, refer to the drawing showing the official dimensions for a softball diamond. This section serves as an example for laying out a diamond with 60-foot bases and a 46-foot pitching distance. To determine the position of home plate, draw a line in the direction desired to lay the diamond. Drive a stake at the corner of home plate nearest the catcher. Fasten a cord to this stake and tie knots, or otherwise mark the cord, at 46 feet, 60 feet, 84 feet 10 1/4 inches, and at 120 feet. Place the cord (without stretching) along the direction line and place a stake at the 46-foot marker. This will be the front line at the middle of the pitcher's plate. Along the same line, drive a stake at the 84-foot 10 1/4-inch marker. This will be the center of second base. Place the 120-foot marker at the center of second base and, taking hold of the cord at the 60-foot marker, walk to the right of the direction line until the cord is taut and drive a stake at the 60-foot marker. This will be the outside corner of first base and the cord will now form the lines to first and second bases. Again, holding the cord at the 60-foot marker, walk across the field and, in a like manner, mark the outside corner of third base. Home plate, first base, and third base are wholly inside the diamond. To check the diamond, place the home plate end of the cord at the first base stake and the 120-foot marker at third base. The 60-foot marker should now check at home plate and the middle of second base.

In the layout of a 65-foot base path diamond, follow the same procedure with the following substitute dimensions: 65 foot, 130 foot, and 91 feet 11 inches. Check all distances with a steel tape whenever possible.

- A. The three-foot line is drawn in foul territory parallel to and three feet from the baseline, starting at a point halfway between home plate and first base.
- B. The batter's on-deck circle is a five-foot circle (2 1/2-foot radius) placed adjacent to the end of the player's bench or dugout area closest to home plate.
- C. There shall be batter's boxes, one on each side of home plate. The front line of the box will be drawn from the center of home plate. The inside lines of the batter's box shall be six inches from home plate.

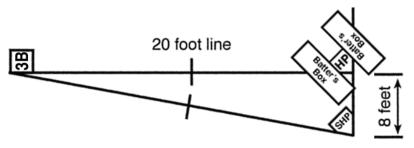
Batter's Box Table:				
Fast Pitch:	3'W x 7'L			
Slow Pitch	4'W x 7'L			
16" Slow Pitch	4'W x 8'L			

- D. The catcher's box shall be as wide as the two batter's boxes from outside line to outside line, 8.5 feet wide for fast pitch and 10.5 feet wide for Slow Pitch and 16" Slow Pitch.
- E. Each coach's box is behind a line 15 feet long drawn outside the diamond. The line is parallel to and eight feet from the first and third base line, extended from the bases toward home plate.
- F. The pitcher's plate shall be of rubber or wood, 24 inches long and six inches

RULE 2 - THE PLAYING FIELD

wide. The top of the plate shall be level with the ground. The front of the pitcher's plate shall be the prescribed pitching distances from the back point of home plate. It shall be permanently attached to the ground at distances indicated in Rule 2, Section 1. (Fast Pitch) There shall be a 16-foot circle, eight feet in radius, drawn from the center of the pitcher's plate. The lines drawn around the pitcher's plate are considered inside the circle.

- G. Home plate shall be made of rubber or other suitable material. It shall be a five-sided figure, 17 inches wide across the edge facing the pitcher's plate. The sides shall be parallel to the inside lines of the batter's box and shall be 8 1/2 inches long. The sides of the point facing the catcher shall be 12 inches long. (Senior Slow Pitch) The second home plate shall be placed eight feet from the back tip of home plate on an extended line from first base. A line shall be drawn from third base to the second home plate.
- H. The bases, other than home plate, shall be 15 inches square, shall be made of canvas or other suitable material and not more than five inches in thickness. The bases should be properly fastened in position.
 - The double base is shall be used at first base. This base is 15 by 30 inches
 and made of canvas or other suitable material. Half the base is white (over
 fair territory) and half is orange or green (over foul territory). It should not
 be more than five inches in thickness.
 - 2. The double base shall be used at first base in all divisions of play.



- I. The outfield fence height for Regional, area, and National Tournaments, National Championship Finals and The USA Softball Championships must be at least four feet high (at least three feet high if using temporary fencing) and it is suggested that it be eight feet in height.
- Regional, Area, and National Championship Final play the minimum lighting level is 30-foot candles.

PREAMBLE TO RULE 3: Rule 3 governs the equipment to be used in ASA Championship Play. Equipment bearing ASA's approved certification mark(s) should not be construed as a warranty or guarantee that the equipment is safe or will safeguard participants or spectators from injury. Instead, ASA's certification marks merely indicate that the equipment model has been tested and complies with ASA's rules for Championship Play. The primary purpose of Rule 3 and ASA's equipment standards is to promote competitive balance and to preserve the integrity of the sport of amateur softball. The use of ASA approved equipment in Championship Play or otherwise should not be considered a guarantee that participants, spectators or others will be safe or free from injury or harm. There are risks and dangers incidental to the game of softball, including specifically (but not limited to) the danger of being injured by thrown bats, thrown balls, batted balls or other objects.

Section 1. OFFICIAL BAT.

- A. **CERTIFIED/APPROVED.** The official bat for ASA Championship Play must meet all the ASA specifications and the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1, and:
 - must bear either the ASA 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 certification mark as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA Non Approved Bat List; or



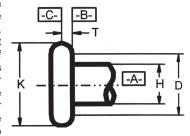


- 2. must be included on a list of approved bat models published by ASA; or
- must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and, if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.
- B. MARKING. The official bat shall be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer.
- C. LENGTH AND WEIGHT. The official bat shall not be more than 34.0 inches long, nor exceed 38.0 ounces in weight.
- D. DIAMETER. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, which includes any tolerance for expansion of the bat.
- E. **SHAPE.** The official bat shall be round within 0.050 inches in diameter, and the bat handle must be round or oblong and may be angular.
- F. SURFACE. The official bat shall be smooth with a maximum surface roughness of 250 micro inches. It shall be free of burrs and visible cracks, and shall not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener

that would present a hazard.

- G. BARREL END. If not constructed of wood, and not made of one-piece construction with the barrel end closed, the barrel end shall have a rubber or vinyl plastic or other approved material insert, or end cap at the large end of the bat. The insert of end cap shall be firmly secured and permanently affixed so that it can not be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer without damaging or destroying the end cap.
- H. SAFETY GRIP. The official bat shall have a safety grip of cork, tape (no smooth plastic tape) or composition material. The Safety Grip shall not be less than 10.0 inches long, and shall not extend more than 15.0 inches from the small/knob end of the bat. The Safety Grip may be a molded finger-formed grip as long as it is permanently attached to the bat or attached to the bat with safety tape. Resin, pine tar or spray substances are permissible on the Safety Grip only. Any tape applied to the Safety Grip must be continuously spiral, but does not have to be a solid layer of tape. The Safety Grip may not exceed two layers of tape. A bat having a "flare" or "cone" grip attached will be considered an Altered Bat.
- SAFETY KNOB. The official bat shall have a Safety Knob of circular or oblong cross section concentric to the bat handle that complies with this rule. The Knob may be molded, lathed, welded, or permanently fastened to the bat, and may

be taped as long as there is no violation of this section. The distance from the Safety Grip to the apex of the Knob, shown as (T) in the diagram Shall not exceed 0.3750 inches. The diameter of the Knob (K) shall be at least 0.5 inches greater than the bat handle diameter including the Grip (H). The center line of the Knob (C) shall be perpendicular to the center line of the bat (A). The diameter of the flat region of the Knob



adjacent to the Grip (D) shall be at least 0.1250 inches greater than the bat Handle diameter including the Grip (H). The angle of the Flat region of the Knob adjacent to the Grip (B) shall be perpendicular to the center line of the bat (A) within ten (10) degrees.

J. ALTERED BAT. The official bat shall not be an Altered Bat The weight, distribution of weight, and length of the bat as well as all other characteristics of the bat must be permanently fixed at the time of manufacture and may not be altered in any way thereafter, except as otherwise specifically provided for in Rule 3, Section 1, or as specifically approved by the ASA. A "flare" or "cone" grip attached to the bat handle, inserting material inside the bat, applying excessive tape (more than two layers) to the bat grip or painting a bat other than at the top or bottom for identification purposes are examples of altering a bat. Replacing the grip with another legal grip is not considered altering the bat. Laser marking for "ID" purposes is not considered altered. Engraved "ID" marking on the knob end only of a metal bat is not considered altered. Engraved "ID" marking

on the barrel end of a metal bat is considered an altered bat.

K. CONSTRUCTION. The official bat shall be of one-piece construction or a multi-piece permanently assembled bat. NOT APPROVED: two-piece bats, multi-piece bats, bats not sold as a single product, and bats where at least one portion of that bat is intended to be removable by a player from another portion of the bat.

Section 2. WARM-UP BAT.

The warm-up bat should meet the following requirements to be approved:

- A. Stamped with 1/4 inch letters WB on either end of the bat or marked in one-inch letters the words WARM-UP BAT only on the barrel end of the bat.
- B. The warm-up bat shall comply with the safety grip and the safety knob requirements of the official bat.
- C. Be of one-piece construction or a one-piece permanently assembled bat that clearly distinguishes itself as a warm-up bat and is approved by the ASA.
- D. Shall have a safety knob of a minimum of 1/4 inch protruding at a 90 degree angle from the handle. It may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened.
- E. Only approved attachments included on the list published by the ASA can be used on warm-up bats.

Section 3. OFFICIAL SOFTBALL.

A. CERTIFIED/APPROVED. Only softballs which bear an ASA approved certification mark signifying compliance with the Ball COR and Ball Compression limitations then in effect, and which satisfy all other applicable provisions in Rule 3, Section 3, will be allowed for use in ASA Championship Play. The ASA has developed two certification marks for softballs. One mark signifies Ball Compression 300 lbs or less. The other signifies Ball Compression of more than 300 lbs, but less than 375 lbs.

The markings are also distinguishable by color, where red represents a Ball COR of .470 or under, black represents a Ball COR of .440 or under, and blue represents a Ball COR of .400 or under. One of the following must be appropriately and indelibly stamped on each softball allowed for use in ASA Championship Play:



Red Colored Marking & Stamp Max 300 lbs Max .47 cor

Black Colored Marking & Stamp Max 300 lbs Max .44 cor

Blue Colored Marking & Stamp Max 300 lbs Max .40 cor



Red Colored Marking & Stamp Max 375 lbs Max .47 cor

Black Colored Marking & Stamp Max 375 lbs Max .44 cor

Blue Colored Marking & Stamp Max 375 lbs Max .40 cor

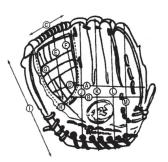
- B. COVER. The official softball shall have a cover of leather or synthetic material. The ball shall be regular, smooth-seamed, and smooth-surfaced.
- C. THE 16-INCH BALL. The official 16-inch softball shall be at least 16.0 inches in circumference when measured across two seams, and shall weigh at least 9.0 ounces. The 16-inch ball shall have a white cover, white stitches, a Ball COR of .470 or under, and a Ball Compression of 375.0 lbs or under. The 16-inch ball shall be used in the following ASA play: all men's 16-inch slow pitch.
- D. THE 14-INCH BALL. The official 14-inch softball shall be at least 14.0 inches in circumference when measured across two seams, and shall weight at least 8.0 ounces.
- E. THE 12-INCH BALL. The official 12-inch softball shall be at least 12.0 inches in circumference when measured across two seams, and shall weigh at least 6.750 ounces. The 12-inch ball shall have no fewer than 88 stitches in each cover, sewn by the two needle method, or with an authentic facsimile of stitching as approved by the ASA.
 - The 12-Inch Fast Pitch Ball. The white cover or yellow optic cover, redstitch 12-inch ball (all men's and boys play may have white cover, white stitches) with a Ball COR of .470 or under and a Ball Compression of 375.0 lbs or under shall be used in the following ASA play: men's and women's fast pitch, men's and women's master fast pitch, men's senior fast pitch, and boys and girls 12, 14, 16 and 18-under fast pitch.
 - The 12-inch Modified Pitch Ball. The white cover, red-stitch or yellow optic cover, red-stitch 12-inch ball with a Ball COR of .470 or under, and a Ball Compression of 375.0 lbs or under, shall be used in the following ASA play: all modified pitch.
 - The 12-inch Slow Pitch Ball. The white cover, red-stitch or yellow optic cover, red-stitch 12-inch ball with a Ball COR or .440 or under, and a Ball Compression of 375.0 lbs or under, shall be used in the following ASA play: men's slow pitch, men's major, co-ed slow pitch (male batters only), men's master's, men's senior's, and boys 14, 16, and 18-under slow pitch.
- F. THE 11-INCH BALL. The official 11-inch softball shall be at least 11.0 inches in circumference. It shall weigh at least 6.0 ounces. The smooth-seamed style shall not have fewer than 80 stitches in each cover, sewn by the two-needle method, or with an authentic facsimile of stitching as approved by the ASA.
 - The 11-inch Fast Pitch Ball. The white cover, white stitch or yellow optic cover, red-stitch 11-inch ball (it may be white-stitch for boys fast pitch), with a Ball COR of .470 or under and a Ball Compression of 375.0 lbs or under and shall be used in the following ASA play: boys and girls 10-under fast pitch.
 - 2. The 11-inch Slow Pitch Ball. The white cover, red-stitch or yellow optic cover, red-stitch 11-inch ball with a Ball COR of .440 or under, and a Ball Compression of 375.0 lbs or under, shall be used in the following ASA play: women's slow pitch, co-ed slow pitch (women batter's only), women's masters, women's senior's, boys 10-under and 12-under slow pitch and girls 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18-under slow pitch.
- G. The 10-inch Ball. The official 10-inch softball shall be at least 10.0 inches in circumference when measured across two seams, and shall weigh at least 5.50 ounces.

SOFTBALL COLOR	THREAD COLOR	COVER COLOR		SIZE	WEIGHT	MARKING
10"	white or red	white yellow		st 10.0 in st 10.0 in	at least 5.50 oz at least 5.50 oz	
11" FP	white	white		ast 11.0 in ast 11.0 in	at least 6.0 oz at least 6.0 oz	ASA Logo Red Marking
boys only						
11" FP/SP	red	white or yellow		ast 11.0 in ast11.0 in	at least 6.0 oz at least 6.0 oz	ASA Logo Red Marking
12"FP	white	white		est 12.0 in est 12.0 in	at least 6.750 oz at least 6.750 oz	
boys only 12" FP/SP	red	white or yellow		est 12.0 in est 12.0 in	at least 6.750 oz at least 6.750 oz	
14" SP	red	white		st 14.0 in st 14.0 in	at least 8.0 oz at least 8.0 oz	
16" SP	white	white		st 16.0 in st 16.0 in	at least 9.0 oz at least 9.0 oz	ASA Logo
DIVISION OF F	PLAY	SIZE	COR	DESCRIPT	TION	COMPRESSION
FAST PITCH: Men's and Men Boys 12, 14, 16		12"	.470 max		er/White Stitch or ic Cover/Red Stitch	375.0 lbs max
Women's and V Masters Girls 12, 14, 16		12"	470 W max	White Cove	er/Yellow Optic Cover	375.0 lbs max
Girls 10-U		11"	.470 max	White Cove Red Stitch	er/Yellow Optic Cover only	375.0 lbs max
Boys 10-U		11'	.470 max		er/White Stitch or375.0 ic Cover/Red Stitch	lbs max
MODIFIED PIT Men's, Women		ritch 12"	.470 max		er/Red Stitch or 375.0 ic Cover/Red Stitch	lbs max
SLOW PITCH: Men's, Co-ed M Men's Master's Boy's 14, 16, 18	, Men's Majo		.440 max		er/Red Stitch or 375.0 ic Cover/Red Stitch	lbs max

KOLL 5 - LGOIF MENT						
DIVISION OF PLAY	SIZE COR	DESCRIPTION COMPRESSION				
Women's, Co-ed Female, Women's Master's, Women's Seniors, Boy's 10, 12 –U, and Girl's 10, 12, 14, 16, 18-U	11" .440 max	White Cover/Red Stitch or 375.0 lbs max Yellow Optic Cover/Red Stitch				
16" SLOW PITCH: Men's	16" .470 max	White Cover/White Stitch 375.0 lbs max				

Section 4. GLOVE/MITT. A Glove/Mitt may be worn by any player. The dimensions of any glove/mitt used by any fielder shall not exceed the specifications set forth below (see drawing and specifications). (Fast Pitch) The Pitcher's glove may be of one solid color or multicolored as long as the color(s) are not the color of the ball being used in the game.

(a)	Palm width (top)	8 in.
(b)	Palm width (bottom)	8 1/2 in.
(c)	Top opening of web	5 in.
(d)	Bottom opening of web	4 1/2 in.
(e)	Web top to bottom	7 1/4 in.
(f)	1st finger crotch seam	7 1/2 in.
(g)	Thumb crotch seam	7 1/2 in.
(h)	Crotch seam	17 1/2 in.
(i)	Thumb top to bottom edge	9 1/4 in.
(j)	1st finger top to bottom edge	14 in.
(k)	2nd finger top to bottom edge	13 1/4 in.
(l)	3rd finger top to bottom edge	12 1/4 in.
(m)	4th finger top to bottom edge	11 in.



Section 5. CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT, FACE MASK/GUARDS, AND HELMETS.

- A. CATCHER MASKS: (Adult Fast Pitch) Catchers must wear masks with throat protectors. An extended wire protector may be worn in lieu of an attached throat protector. Helmets are optional, and if worn any style is approved. FP catchers cannot wear the plastic face mask/guard.
- B. CATCHER MASKS: (Junior Olympic Slow Pitch) Catchers must wear an approved batter's helmet with ear flaps, the catcher's helmet and mask, or an approved plastic face mask/guard with catcher's helmet. The throat protector is optional on the catcher's mask.
- C. CATCHER MASKS: (Junior Olympic Fast Pitch) Catchers must wear a mask with throat protector, approved helmet with ear flaps, shin guards which offer protection to the knee caps and body protector. An extended wire protector may be worn in lieu of an attached throat protector. Any player warming up a Junior Olympic pitcher must wear a mask with throat protector and approved helmet with ear flaps. FP catchers cannot wear the plastic face mask/guard. NOTE: (Sections A-B-C) The ice hockey goalie style face mask is approved for use by catchers. If the umpire feels that there is not adequate throat protection built

onto the mask, a throat attachment must be added to the mask before using.

 FACE MASK/GUARDS. Any defensive player or offensive player may wear a face mask/guard.

EXCEPTION: Fast pitch catchers cannot wear the plastic face mask/guard. Face masks/guards that are cracked or deformed, or if padding has deteriorated or is missing, are prohibited.

NOTE: A NOCSAE approved mask is only compatible with certain NOCSAE approved helmets. Failure to ensure proper compatibility may create unsafe conditions and may affect any manufacturer's product liability obligation. Contact the manufacturer or supplier of the helmet and the mask to ensure proper compatibility and approval of your specific mask-helmet combination.

F HELMETS.

OFFENSE. All adult fast pitch, modified pitch and all Junior Olympic offensive players, including the on-deck batter, and Junior Olympic players acting as coaches in the coach's box, must properly wear double ear flap NOCSAE approved batting helmets. All Junior Olympic batting helmets shall be equipped with chin straps. All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch batting helmets shall be equipped with a securely fastened NOCSAE approved face mask/guard. Batting helmets that are broken, cracked, dented, or that have been illegally altered are prohibited from use.

NOTE: A NOCSAE approved mask is only compatible with certain NOCSAE approved helmets. Failure to ensure proper compatibility may create unsafe conditions and may affect any manufacturer's product liability obligation. Contact the manufacturer or supplier of the helmet and the mask to ensure proper compatibility and approval of your specific mask-helmet combination.

EFFECT: Failure to wear the batting helmet when ordered to do so by the umpire shall cause the player to be removed from the game. Wearing the helmet improperly or removing the helmet during a live ball play and judged by the umpire to be a deliberate act shall cause the violator to be declared out immediately. The ball remains live. Calling a runner out for removing a helmet does not remove force play situations. Umpires should use discretion as to the intent of the rule concerning player safety.

DEFENSE. Any defensive player may wear a helmet, with or without ear flaps, of similar color as the team caps. It must have a bill.

EXCEPTION: Hockey style face mask.

Section 6. UNIFORM.

All players on a team shall properly wear uniforms that are like in color and style. Sleeves or straps of the uniform top may be adjusted, with or without tie-ups, to the comfort of the players, provided uniform numbers remain visible. If because of the blood rule a change is required and the uniform part does not match, the player will not be penalized. All protective equipment should be worn properly. If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry, illegal shoes or illegal parts of the uniform and they refuse, the player will not be allowed to play.

Coaches, players and team representative shall not display the names and/or logos of any other softball association on their uniforms.

A. HEADWEAR.

- (Fast Pitch Male) Ball caps are mandatory, must be alike, and worn properly.
- (Female Fast Pitch and all Slow Pitch) Ball caps, visors and headbands
 are optional for players. If worn, they may be mixed, but must be worn
 properly. If one type or more than one type is worn, they all must be of
 the same color. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot
 be worn around the head or neck. Plastic visors are not allowed.
- B. PANTS/SLIDING PANTS. All players' pants may be long, short, or mixed in style, as long as they are like in color. Players may wear a solid-colored pair of sliding pants. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants, but if more than one player wears them, they must be like in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit legs on exposed sliding pants.
- C. UNDERSHIRTS. Players may wear a solid-colored undershirt. It is not mandatory that all players wear an undershirt, but if more than one player wears one, they must be like in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit sleeves on exposed undershirts.
- D. NUMBERS. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color, or outlined in contrasting color, at least six inches high must be worn and visible on the back of all uniform shirts. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers. Players without numbers will not be permitted to play. There is no penalty for a player wearing a wrong number or a duplicate number. Correct the number in the score book or have the player(s) change jerseys in case of duplication, and continue play.
- E. CASTS/PROSTHESES. All casts and splints must be padded. Prostheses may be worn. Braces with exposed hard surfaces must be padded. Any of this equipment judged by the umpire to be potentially dangerous is illegal. Any decision by the umpire should be based on whether or not a device worn or used by an individual with a disability changes the fundamental nature of the game or poses a significant risk to the safety of other players.
- F. JEWELRY. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.
- G. SHOES. Must be worn by all players. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather uppers or similar material(s). The soles may be either smooth or have soft or hard rubber cleats. Ordinary metal sole or heel plates may be used if the spikes on the plates do not extend more than 3/4 of an inch from the sole or heel of the shoe. Shoes with round metal spikes are illegal. No shoes with detachable cleats that screw ON are allowed; however, shoes with detachable cleats that screw INTO the shoe are allowed.
 - **EXCEPTION:** All Junior Olympic Fast and Slow Pitch, Co-ed Slow Pitch, and Senior Slow Pitch Play: No metal spikes nor hard plastic or polyurethane spikes similar to metal sole and heel plates are allowed.

Section 7. ALL EQUIPMENT.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the ASA reserves the right to withhold or withdraw approval of any equipment which, in the ASA's sole determination, significantly changes the character of the game, affects the safety of participants or spectators, or renders a player's performance more a product of the player's equipment rather than the player's individual skill.

NOTE: The characteristics of any approved equipment cannot be changed. One example would be icing, cooling, or heating equipment.

Section 1. PLAYERS.

- A. A team must have the required number of players present in the dugout or team area to start or continue a game. Players listed in the starting line-up and not available at game time may be substituted for and re-entered later in the same spot in the batting order.
 - 1. Line-up cards are to be completed and submitted to the official scorer and umpire at the start of each game. A starting player shall be official when the line-up is inspected and approved by the plate umpire and team manager at the pre-game meeting. The line-up shall contain the first and last name, defensive position and uniform number of each player. If a wrong number is on the line-up, correct it and continue playing with no penalty. All available substitutes should be listed in the designated place by their last name, first name and uniform number.
 - Eligible roster members may be added to the available substitute list at any time during the game.
- Male rosters shall include only male players and female rosters shall include only female players.
- C. A team shall consist of players in the following positions:
 - Fast Pitch.
 - Fast Pitch with Nine players: pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first baseman (F3), second baseman (F4), third baseman (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), center fielder (F8) and right fielder (F9).
 - Fast Pitch with Designated Player (DP): Ten Players with nine batting
 - 2. Modified Pitch:
 - Nine man as follows; pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first baseman (F3), second baseman (F4), third baseman (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), center fielder (F8) and right fielder (F9).
 - Nine Player with Designated Player (DP): Ten Players with nine batting.
 - c. Ten Player Modified as follows; pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first baseman (F3), second baseman (F4), third baseman (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), left center fielder (F8), right center fielder (F9) and right fielder (F10).
 - d. Ten Player Modified with Designated Player (DP) 11 players with 10 batting.
 - Slow Pitch.
 - Ten players as follows: pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first baseman (F3), second baseman (F4), third baseman (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), left center fielder (F8), right center fielder (F9) and right fielder (F10).
 - Ten Players with Extra Player (EP) 11 players with only 10 playing defense.
 - c. Senior Slow Pitch (50-55-60) Ten defensive players and 1 or 2 Extra players (EP) or has the option of having all their players in the batting order. NOTE: The shorthanded rule applies that the game can

continue with one less than is in the batting order.

- d. Senior Slow Pitch (65-70-75) 11 defensive players (F11) and 1 or 2 Extra Players (EP) or have the option of having all their players bat. NOTE: The shorthanded rule applies that the game can continue with one less than is in the batting order.
- e. Co-ed 10 players five male and five females, pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first baseman (F3), second baseman (F4), third baseman (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), left center fielder (F8), right center fielder (F9) and right fielder (F10). They must have two males and two females in both the infield and the outfield and one male and one female as pitcher and catcher.
- f. Co-ed with Extra Player (EP) Twelve players: six male and six females as in Ten players with 2 Extra Players (EPs) who bat.

D. SHORTHANDED RULE.

- 1. To start a game:
 - a. A game may begin or finish with one less than required to start.
 - b. The vacant position must be listed last in the batting order.
 - An out will be recorded when the vacant position in the batting order is scheduled to bat.
 - d. (Co-ed Slow Pitch) If a team plays shorthanded with either three in the infield or outfield, at least one of the three must be a male and at least one of the three must be a female player.
- To continue a game once started with a full team listed on the line-up card:
 - a. If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed, that team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the batting order whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to bat less than nine (slow pitch) or eight (fast pitch).
 - b. If playing shorthanded, and a substitute arrives, the substitute must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot. If the substitute refuses to enter for any reason, that player becomes ineligible for the remainder of the game.
 - CO-ED If another player of the correct sex arrives, that player must be inserted into the line-up in the vacant spot by alternating sexes.
 - d. If the player leaving the game is a runner or batter, the runner or batter shall be declared out.
 - e. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat. An inning or the game can end with an automatic out.
 - f. The player who has left the game cannot return to the line-up.
 - g. CO-ED The batting order must still alternate and the defensive positioning remains as required. Rule 4, Section 1C, Rule 7, Section 2D

EXCEPTION: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return even after missing a turn at bat.

EFFECT - Failure to have the required number of eligible players to start or continue a game will result in a forfeit.

Section 2. AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT RULE

- A. This rule may be used for a physically challenged player as determined by the American Disabilities Act of July 25, 1990. As a result of the player's disability, the player can play either offense or defense.
- B. Teams using a physically challenged player on either offense or defense only must have 11 players. If the physically challenged player can play both, only 10 players are needed.
- C. When a physically challenged person plays offense only, the team will follow the EP ruling as written. There would be 11 hitters including the ADA player, and only 10 who play defense.
- D. When a physically challenged player plays defense only, they will be listed as the FLEX and placed last in the line-up. The team has the option to bat 10 or 11 players (if the EP is also used). When using a FLEX, it must be made known prior to the start of the game.
- E. If a team starts the game with the FLEX option, the FLEX player can never play offense. If this person for any reason cannot continue to play and the team has no other physically challenged player for a substitute, the EP can now play in his defensive position.
- F. The FLEX position has the same re-entry status as any other starting position as long as the person substituted is also determined to be physically challenged under the ADA program. The original FLEX player may re-enter only in the same spot on the line-up sheet.
- G. (Co-ed) If a FLEX or two FLEX players, one male and/or one female, is used, the name(s) must be inserted at the end of the line-up. The EP or two EP's can be listed anywhere in the first 10 positions.
- **NOTE:** This special rule has been adopted to accommodate the athlete who is physically challenged. The intent is not to change the game and/or not to deprive any player from playing who would normally play, therefore, when using the EP, the normal EP rules will be followed including substitutions and re-entry. If the EP is used in addition to the FLEX, the FLEX must play defense and any of the other 11 players will be eligible to play defense. Only 11 are allowed to bat.
- H. The DP/FLEX rule in fast pitch accommodates the ADA rule.

Section 3. DESIGNATED PLAYER (Fast Pitch)

- A. A designated player (DP) may be used for any player provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and the player's name is indicated on the line-up as one of the nine in the batting order.
- B. The name of the player for whom the DP is batting (FLEX) will be placed in the 10th position in the line-up.
- C. The starting player listed as the DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game. The DP and the DP's substitute, or the substitute's

replacement, may never play offense at the same time.

- D. The DP may be substituted for at any time, by a pinch-hitter, pinch-runner or the FLEX. If the starting DP is replaced on offense by the FLEX, the DP will leave the game. If replaced by a substitute the DP position remains in the line-up. A starting DP may re-enter one time, as long as the DP returns to the original position in the batting order.
 - If replaced by the FLEX, this reduces the number of players from 10 to nine. If the DP does not re-enter, the game may legally end with nine players.
 - If the DP re-enters and the FLEX was batting in the DP's position, the FLEX can return to the number 10 position and play defense only or leave the game.
- E. The DP may play any defensive position. Should the DP play defense for a player other than the one for whom the DP is batting (FLEX), that player will continue to bat but not play defense, and is not considered to have left the game. If the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX is considered to have left the game. This reduces the number of players from 10 to nine. The FLEX can re-enter the game.
- F. The person being batted for (FLEX) may be substituted for at any time, by a legal substitute or the DP for whom the FLEX is playing defense. The FLEX may re-enter the game one time, in the number 10 position or in the DP's position in the batting order.
- G. If returning to the number 10 position, the FLEX will again play defense only but may play any defensive position.
- H. If the FLEX returns to the DP's position, the FLEX will play offense and defense; there will be only nine players in the batting order.
- Placing the defensive only player (FLEX) into one of the first nine positions for someone other than the original DP is considered an illegal player. The illegal player shall be disqualified. Rule 4 section 7. The FLEX replacing the DP is not considered a substitution for the FLEX. The DP who has left the game, can re-enter the game.

Section 4. EXTRA PLAYER (Slow Pitch).

A. An extra player (EP) is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the line-up card in the regular batting order. If the EP is used, the EP must be used the entire game. If an EP is used and not listed on the line-up card the following occurs:

EFFECT

- If the illegal player is discovered while at bat, the legal batter enters and assumes the count, or
- If discovered while the illegal player is on base and before a pitch has been thrown to the next batter, treat as batting out of order. The person who should have batted is out, and all play as a result of improper batter is nullified, and person not listed in line-up is disqualified from the game, or
- 3. If discovered while the illegal player is on base and a pitch has been thrown

to the next batter, remove the illegal player from the base, or if the player has scored, nullify the run, and disqualify the player from the game.

- B. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
- C. If an EP is used, all 11 on the starting line-up must bat and any 10 of those 11 may play defense.
- D. The EP may be substituted for at any time. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EP may re-enter.
- E. If the EP's are used in co-ed, all 12 must bat and any 10, (five male and five female), may play defense. Defensive positions may be changed as long as the co-ed positioning is followed. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
- F. (Senior). One or two extra players may be designated at any place in the batting order. The EP(s) may enter a game on defense at any time, but the batting order must remain the same throughout the game.

Section 5. RE-ENTRY.

- A. Any player, may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up.
- B. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time.
- C. If a player re-enters the game a second time or a player re-enters the game in a position in the batting order other than their original starting or substitute position, this is considered an illegal re-entry.

EFFECT - Section 5 A-C: Violation of the re-entry rule is considered an illegal player. The illegal player shall be disqualified. Rule 4. Section 6 G4.

Section 6. SUBSTITUTES/ILLEGAL PLAYER.

A substitute may take the place of a player whose name is in his team's batting order. The following regulations govern player substitutions:

- A. The manager or team representative of the team making the substitution shall notify the plate umpire at the time the substitute enters. The plate umpire shall then report the change to the scorer.
- A substitute shall be considered officially in the game when reported to the plate umpire.

EFFECT: If not reported it is treated the same as an illegal player.

- C. A Substitute who enters the game without reporting is considered an unreported substitute:
 - After a pitch, legal or illegal, or a play made;
 EFFECT: Player is disqualified and all action stands
 - Offending team informs the umpire prior to a protest by the offended team; EFFECT: No Violation regardless of how long the player or players were in the game. All action stands.
 - An unreported substitute bats and reaches first base safely and is discovered BEFORE the next pitch, legal or illegal or at the end of game and before the umpires have left the field of play;
 - EFFECT: All runners will return to the last base occupied prior to the bat-

ted ball. The unreported substitute is disqualified and called out. All other outs that occur on this play stand.

- 4. An unreported substitute is discovered after completing their turn at bat and AFTER the next pitch, legal or illegal, or before the defense has left the field and before the umpires have left the field of play;
 - **EFFECT:** The unreported substitute is disqualified. If on base a legal substitute takes their position on base. All advancement of runner(s) as a result of the play is legal. If no legal substitute is available an out is recorded
- 5. An unreported substitute in the game as a runner and is brought to the attention of the umpire BEFORE a pitch, legal or illegal, or a play made: **EFFECT:** No penalty. Replace the unreported substitute with the correct player or enter them as a legal substitute.
- 6. An unreported substitute as a runner and is protested AFTER a pitch. legal or illegal, or a play made;
 - **EFFECT:** The runner is disqualified and replaced on base. Any advance of the runners is legal. If no substitute is available an out is recorded.
- An unreported substitute on defense and is protested by the offense 7. BEFORE a pitch, legal or illegal:
 - EFFECT: No penalty. Replace with the correct player or enter them as a legal substitute.
- 8. An unreported substitute on defense MAKES A PLAY and is protested BEFORE the next pitch, legal or illegal, before the defense has left the field, and before the umpires have left the field of play;

EFFECT: The unreported substitute is disqualified and the offensive team has the option to:

- Take the result of the play
- b. Have the last batter returned to bat and assume the ball and strike count. All runners return to the last base occupied prior to the play.
- 9 An unreported substitute on defense is protested AFTER a pitch, legal or illegal, to the next batter:

EFFECT: The unreported substitute is disqualified and all play stands.

NOTE:

- If the team in violation has no legal substitutes to replace the player a. disqualified, it is treated the same as the shorthanded rule. Rule 4. section 1 D (2)
- If the substitute is an Illegal player for any reason, the substitute will be subject to the penalty for that violation.
- D The pitcher is not required to pitch until the first batter faced completes their time at bat or the side has been retired.
- F If an injury to a batter-runner or runner prevents them from proceeding to an awarded base, and the ball is dead, the batter-runner may be substituted for. The substitute will be allowed to proceed to any awarded base(s). The substitute must legally touch any awarded or missed base(s) not previously touched. This is not a courtesy runner, but a legal substitute.
- F. A player will not violate the illegal player rule until a pitch, legal or illegal, or a

play made. The use of an illegal player is handled as a protest by the offended team while the player is in the game.

EFFECT: Once the umpire has been informed, in all cases the illegal player shall be disqualified, and can be legally replaced either by a substitute or a starter who re-enters the game.

G. Illegal Players Include:

- ILLEGAL PITCHER. An illegal pitcher is a player who returns to pitch after being removed from the pitching position by the umpire,
 - **EFFECT:** Once discovered, the illegal pitcher shall be disqualified and all play stands.
- ILLEGAL BATTER. (Fast Pitch) Placing the "FLEX" player into one of the first nine positions in the batting order for someone other than the original DP.
- 3. **ILLEGAL RUNNER.** An illegal runner occurs when:
 - Placing an offensive player in the line-up as a runner for another offensive player.
 - **EXCEPTION:** Senior Slow Pitch, Men's Masters 40-OSP/45-OSP, Senior or Master Fast Pitch (pitcher and catcher only), and in the tie-breaker rule (Rule 5 Section 11)
 - (Fast Pitch) Placing the FLEX in the line-up as a runner for someone other than the starting DP.
 - c. (Boys and Girls JO Fast Pitch) Not reporting a courtesy runner or using an illegal courtesy runner.
- 4. **ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY.** An illegal re-entry occurs when:
 - A starting player returns to the game a second time after being substituted for twice.
 - A starting player returns to the game, but is not in his original position in the batting order.
 - c. A substitute returns to the game after being replaced twice.

EFFECT – Any infraction of sections G2-4 that occurs are governed by the Unreported Substitute rule, Rule 4 Section 6 A-C1-9.

Section 7. COACH.

- A. A coach is responsible for the team's actions on the field and will represent the team in communications with the umpire and opposing team. A player may be designated as a coach in the event the coach is absent or that player is acting as a player/coach.
- B. Coaches must be neatly attired or dressed in the team uniform. If a coach wears a hat/cap, it must be approved head wear.
 - **EFFECT:** The coach(s) cannot be on the playing field to coach their team.
- C. A base coach is an eligible team member or coach of the team at bat who occupies the coach's box at first or third, to direct the batter or runner.
 - One coach can have, in possession in the coach's box, a score book (electronic or paper), pen, pencil, or electronic marker and an indicator all of which shall be used for scorekeeping or record keeping purposes only.

- 2. A base coach shall stay within the confines of these boxes with both feet.
 - A coach may leave the coach's box to signal the runner to slide, advance or return to a base or move out of a fielder's way as long as the coach does not intentionally interfere with the play.
 - b. A coach may not leave the coach's box to give verbal communications or signals to the batter.

EFFECT: After a warning, an offensive conference will be charged.

- 3. Base coaches may not use language that will reflect negatively upon players, umpires or spectators.
- 4. A base coach may address only their team members.
- 5. No communication equipment to include cell phones, pagers, etc., are allowed to be worn or carried on the playing field.

EFFECT: Disqualification or ejection from the game after a warning.

Section 8. DISQUALIFIED OR EJECTED PARTICIPANT.

- A. A disqualified player is prohibited from playing but can remain in the team area or serve as a coach/manager.
 - **EFFECT:** If found playing, the game is forfeited.
- B. An ejected participant must leave the grounds and have no contact with the umpires or participants in the game.
 EFFECT: The Game is forfeited.
- Any arguing on the judgment of balls and strikes will constitute a team warning.
 - **EFFECT:** Any repeat offense shall result in the ejection of that team member.
- If a player is disqualified a team can play shorthanded, however if a player is ejected and the team does not have enough players, play can not continue.
 EFFECT: The game is forfeited.

Section 9. BLOOD RULE.

A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:

- A. Stop the game and immediately call a coach, trainer or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment.
- B. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if necessary.

Section 10. INJURED PLAYER.

During a live ball situation, when a player becomes injured, and in the umpire's judgment requires immediate attention, the umpire shall call "DEAD BALL".

EFFECT: Award any bases that would have been reached.

Section 1. HOME TEAM.

The team designated as home team shall bat last in the inning.

Section 2. FITNESS OF THE GROUND.

The fitness of the ground for a game shall be decided solely by the plate umpire.

Section 3. REGULATION GAME.

- A. A regulation game shall consist of seven innings. A full seven innings need not be played if the team second at bat scores more runs in six and one-half innings and/or before the third out in the last of the seventh inning, or the run ahead rule is applied.
- B. A game that is tied at the end of seven innings shall be continued by playing additional innings until one side has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning, or until the team second at bat has scored more runs in their half of the inning before the third out is made.
- C. Agame called by the umpire shall be regulation if five or more complete innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in four or more innings than the other team has scored in five or more innings. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic or any other cause that places the patrons or players in peril.
- Games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.
- E. A regulation tie game shall be declared if the score is equal when the game is called at the end of five or more complete innings, or if the team second at bat has equaled the score of the first team at bat in the incomplete inning.
- F. Games that are regulation tie games shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.

Section 4. FORFEITED GAMES.

A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault in the following cases:

- A. If an umpire is physically attacked by any team member and/or spectator.
- B. If a team fails to appear on the field, or, being on the field, refuses to begin a game for which it is scheduled or assigned within a time set for forfeitures by the organization that the team represents.
- C. If one side refuses to continue to play after the game has begun, unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire.
- D. If, after play has been suspended by the umpire, one side fails to resume playing within two minutes after "play ball" has been declared by the umpire.
- E. If a team employs tactics noticeably designed to delay or to hasten the game.
- F. If, after warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game are willfully violated.
- G. If the order for the ejection of a player, manager or coach is not obeyed within one minute.
- H. If the ejection of a player or players from the game results in fewer than the required number of players to continue the game.

- If an ejected participant is discovered participating, or has contact with the umpires or other participants in the game.
- J. If a team is playing one player short and another player becomes injured or ill, leaving the team with two less players than the required number.
- K. Once a game has been forfeited, the forfeit cannot be changed.

Section 5. SCORING OF RUNS.

- A. One run shall be scored each time a runner
 - 1. touches first, second, third bases and home plate.
 - When using the tie breaker rule, a runner starting at second base, touches third base and home plate.

EXCEPTION: Women's Open, Co-Ed Major and Men's "A" Slow Pitch.

- B. No run shall be scored if the third out of the inning is the result of:
 - A batter-runner being called out prior to reaching first base or any other runner forced out due to the batter becoming a batter-runner. On an appeal play, the force out is determined when the appeal is made, not when the infraction occurred.
 - 2. A runner being put out by a tag or live ball appeal play prior to the lead runner touching home plate.
 - 3. A preceding runner is declared out on an appeal play.
- B. No run shall be scored if a "fourth out" is the result of an appeal of a base missed or left to soon on a runner who has scored.

Section 6. GAME WINNER.

The winner of the game shall be the team that scores more runs in a regulation game.

- A. The score of a called regulation game shall be the score at the end of the last complete inning, unless the team second at bat has scored an equal number or more runs than the first team at bat in the incomplete inning. In this case, the score shall be that of the incomplete inning.
- B. The score of a regulation tie game shall be the tie score when the game was terminated. Rule 5, Section 3F.
- C. The score of a forfeited game shall be seven to zero in favor of the team not at fault.

Section 7. CONFERENCES.

- A. **Offensive Conference**. There shall be only one charged conference between a team representative(s) and the batter, another team representative, and/or runner(s) in an inning. The umpire shall not permit any such conferences in excess of one in an inning.
 - **EFFECT:** Ejection of the manager or team representative who insists on another charged conference.
- B. Defensive Conference. There shall be only three charged conference(s) between the manager or other team representative from the dugout with any defensive player(s) in a seven inning game. For every inning beyond seven, there shall be one charged conference per inning between the manager or

other team representative from the dugout with any defensive player(s).

EFFECT: The fourth, and each additional, charged conference in a seven inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one per inning in an extra inning game, shall result in the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. The removed pitcher can play another position on defense but cannot pitch again.

Section 8. HOME RUN RULE

A. (Men's, Men's Master, and Co-ed Slow Pitch) A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all men's, men's masters, and co-ed slow pitch divisions. The following limitations are per team per game:

1. Eight (8) Class A

2. Six (6) Industrial and Major Co-ed

3. Four (4) Class B and Church, Masters 35-over, 40-

over, and 45-over

4. Three (3) Class A Co-ed

5. Two (2) Class C

6. Zero (0) Class D and Class B Co-ed

EFFECT: For any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance. In Men's Class D an over the fence home run will also be an inning ending out.

NOTE:

- a. Any fair fly ball touched by a defensive player that clears or has cleared over the fence in fair territory, should be declared a four-base award and shall not be included in the total of over-the-fence home runs.
- A home run will be charged for any ball hit over the fence whether runs score or not.
- c. Both male and female home runs count toward the Co-ed limit.
- **B.** (Men's Senior Divisions) The following limitations are per team per game: SENIORS 50-55-60-65:

1. Nine (9) plus "one-up"

Major Plus Major

Six (6) plus "one-up"
 Three (3)

AAA

4. One (1) AA

SENIORS 70 & 75:

Six (6) Major

2. Three (3) A

EFFECT: For any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.

NOTE:

1.

a. One-up Ruling: If both teams have reached the limit of home runs, either team is allowed to hit an additional home run, to go one home run ahead of the opposing team. (Example: With a six home run limit, the home team hits their sixth home run in the 2nd inning. The

visiting team can then hit a total of seven home runs, and do so in the top of the 3rd inning. In the bottom of the 3rd, the home team could then hit two more home runs to go "one-up" again, with a total of eight. This can continue throughout the game until the bottom of the 7th inning.) The home team can only equal the number of home runs by the visitors (in excess of six) in this inning. If neither team has hit six home runs by the bottom of 7th, the home team can hit their sixth.

Section 9. RUN AHEAD RULE

- A. A run ahead rule must be used at all National Tournaments.
 - 1. Fast Pitch 15 after three innings or 8 after five innings.
 - 2. Modified Pitch 10 after five innings.
 - 3. Slow Pitch 20 after four innings or 12 after five innings.
 - 4. Sixteen-Inch Slow Pitch 12 after four innings and 10 after five innings.
- B. Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the run ahead limit while at bat. When the visiting team reaches the limit in the top half of the inning, the home team must have their opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning.

Section 10. TIME LIMIT RULE (Code Article 510 O)

When the time limit rule is in effect, time begins with the first pitch. If the game is tied after the time limit has expired, the tie breaker rule shall be in effect at the start of the next inning and play shall continue until a winner is determined. The time limit rule is as follows:

- A) In Junior Olympic 10-Under Class A and 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch pool play, the time limit will be one hour and fifteen minutes, finish the inning and play one more inning, if it is not a complete game.
- B) In Junior Olympic 10-Under Class A and 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch elimination play, no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- C) In all Junior Olympic Class A 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under; Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under; and Gold pool play; no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- D) In all Junior Olympic Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under elimination play; no inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes.

EXCEPTION: In all Junior Olympic Class B 12-Under, 14-Under, 16-Under and 18-Under elimination play there will be no time limit for the upper and lower bracket final games, and the championship and the 'if necessary' games.

Section 11. TIE-BREAKER RULE (Code Article 510 N).

(Women and Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch) If, after the completion of seven (7) innings of play (or 1 hour and 40 minutes in JO pool play), the score is tied, the following tie-breaker rule will be played to determine a winning team.

- A. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number five batter is the lead off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner). Rule 11. Section 10.
- B. If a team is in the tie-breaker and the absent player is the one who should begin the half inning at second base, do not declare an out. Instead, place on second base the player whose name precedes the absent player's name in the line-up.
- C. (Men's Senior Slow Pitch) Use the tie-breaker rule after completion of seven innings.

Section 12. DUGOUT CONDUCT.

Coaches, players, substitutes, or other bench personnel shall not be outside the designated bench, dugout/team area except when the rule allows or justified by the umpire.

EFFECT: The first offense is a team warning. Any repeat offense shall result in the ejection of that team member.

Section 1. PRELIMINARIES.

Before starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall comply with the following:

- A. The pitcher may not take the pitching position on the pitcher's plate without possession of the ball.
- B. The pitcher shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
- C. Both feet must be on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. The shoulders shall be in line with first and third bases.
 - (Male) The pitcher shall take a position with their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and their non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher's plate.
 - 2. (Female) The pitcher shall take a position with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.
- D. While on the pitching plate, the pitcher shall take the signal or appear to be taking a signal with the hands separated. The ball must remain in either the glove or pitching hand.
- E. The pitcher shall bring the hands together for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing it,
 - (Male) If the pitcher decides to pitch with the non-pivot foot to the rear and
 off the pitching plate, a backward step may be taken before, simultaneous
 with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain
 in contact with the pitching plate at all times prior to the forward step.
 - (Female) Both feet must remain in contact with the pitching plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Section 2. STARTING THE PITCH.

The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball after the hands have been placed together.

Section 3. LEGAL DELIVERY.

- A. The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- B. The pitcher must not use a pitching motion in which, after bringing the hands together, the pitcher removes one hand from the ball, and returns the ball to both hands.
- C. The pitcher must not make a stop or reversal of the forward motion after separating the hands.
- D. The pitcher must not make two revolutions of the arm on the windmill pitch. A pitcher may drop the arm to the side and to the rear before starting the windmill motion.
- E. The delivery must be an underhanded motion with the hand below the hip and the wrist not farther from the body than the elbow.
- F. The pitch shall be delivered on the throwing arm side of the body and not behind the back or through the legs.
- G. The release of the ball and follow through of the hand and wrist must be forward and past the straight line of the body.

- H. (Men's Fast Pitch) In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher must take one step with the non-pivot foot simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward toward the batter. It is not a step if the pitcher slides the pivot foot across the pitcher's plate toward the batter, or if the pivot foot turns or slides in order to push off the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained with the plate. Raising the foot off the pitching plate and returning it to the plate creates a rocking motion and is an illegal act.
- I. (Women's and all JO play) In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher must take one step with the non-pivot foot simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward and toward the batter within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. It is not a step if the pitcher slides the pivot foot across the pitcher's plate toward the batter, or if the pivot foot turns or slides in order to push off the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained with the plate. Raising the foot off the pitching plate and returning it to the plate creates a rocking motion and is an illegal act
- Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.
- K. (Women's and all JO Play) Pushing off and dragging the pivot foot in contact with the ground is required. If a hole has been created, the pivot foot may drag no higher than the level plane of the ground.
- L. (Men's) Pushing off and dragging the pivot foot in contact with the ground, or if both feet are in the air, having the toes of the pivot foot in the downward direction is required.
- M. The pitcher must not make another revolution after releasing the ball.
- N. The pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll or bounce the ball in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.
- O. The pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball or after the umpire indicates "play ball."

Section 4. INTENTIONAL WALK.

If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter.

Section 5. DEFENSIVE POSITIONING.

- A. The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch unless all available defensive players are positioned in fair territory, except the catcher who must be in the catcher's box.
- B. A fielder shall not take a position in the batter's line of vision or, with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. A pitch does not have to be released.

EFFECT: The offending player shall be ejected from the game.

Section 6. FOREIGN SUBSTANCE/PROTECTIVE WRAPS.

A. A defensive player shall not at any time during the game be allowed to use any foreign substance upon the ball. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin may be used to dry the hands. Applying resin in the

glove and then placing the ball in the glove is an illegal act. Resin must be kept on the ground behind the pitcher's plate. A pitcher who licks their fingers must wipe the fingers off before bringing them in contact with the ball.

EFFECT: An illegal pitch shall be called on the first offense. If any defensive player continues to place a foreign substance on the ball, the player should be ejected from the ball game.

B. A pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, forearm, elbow or thighs, which may, in the umpire's judgment, be distracting to the batter. Batting gloves may not be worn on the pitching hand.

Section 7. CATCHER.

- The catcher must remain within the lines of the catcher's box until the pitch is released.
- B. The catcher shall return the ball directly to the pitcher after each pitch, except after a strikeout, a put out or an attempted put out made by the catcher. EXCEPTION: Does not apply with a runner(s) on base or the batter becoming a batter-runner.

Section 8. THROWING TO A BASE.

The pitcher shall not throw to a base during a live ball while either foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate after the pitcher has taken the pitching position. If the throw from the pitcher's plate occurs during a live ball appeal play, the appeal is canceled. The pitcher may move back from the pitching position by stepping back off the pitcher's plate prior to separating their hands. Stepping forward or sideways at any time constitutes an illegal pitch.

EFFECT - Sections 1-5, 7,8:

- A. Any infraction of Sections 1-5, 7, 8 is an illegal pitch.
- B. If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all other runners have advanced at least one base on the batted ball, the illegal pitch is nullified. All action as a result of the batted ball stands. No option is given. When a runner passes a base, the runner is considered to have touched a base.
- C. Otherwise the manager has the option to take the result of the play, or the illegal pitch is enforced by awarding a ball to the batter and advancing all runners one base.
- D. If an illegal pitch hits the batter out of the strike zone, the batter is awarded first base and all runners are awarded one base.

Section 9. WARM-UP PITCHES.

At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than five pitches. Play shall be suspended during this time. For excessive warm-up pitches, a pitcher shall be penalized by awarding a ball to the batter for each pitch in excess of five. This does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, or other umpire responsibilities. A pitcher returning to pitch in the same half inning will

not receive warm-up pitches. There is no limitation as to the number of times a player can return to the pitching position as long as the player is legally in the game.

Section 10. NO PITCH.

No pitch shall be declared when:

- A. The pitcher pitches during the suspension of play.
- B. The pitcher attempts a quick return of the ball before the batter has taken a position in the batter's box or when the batter is off balance.
- C. A runner is called out for leaving a base prior to the pitcher releasing the ball.
- D. If a pitch is delivered before a runner has retouched their base after being legitimately off that base.
- E. No player, manager or coach shall call time, employ any other word or phrase, or commit any act while the ball is live for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit an illegal pitch. A warning shall be issued to the offending team, and a repeat of this type act by any member of the team warned shall result in the offender being ejected from the game.

EFFECT - Section 10 A-E: The ball is dead, and all subsequent action on that pitch is canceled.

Section 11. DROPPED BALL.

If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery, a ball is declared on the batter, the ball will remain live and the runner(s) may advance at their own risk.

Section 1. PRELIMINARIES.

Before starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall comply with the following:

- A. The pitcher may not take the pitching position on the pitcher's plate without possession of the ball.
- B. The pitcher shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
- C. The pitcher shall take a position with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. The shoulders shall be in line with first and third bases.
- D. While on the pitching plate, the pitcher shall take the signal or appear to be taking a signal with the hands separated. The ball must remain in either the glove or pitching hand.
- E. The pitcher shall hold the ball in both hands for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing it, and both feet must remain in contact with the pitching plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Section 2. STARTING THE PITCH.

The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball after the hands have been placed together.

Section 3. LEGAL DELIVERY.

- A. The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- B. The pitcher must not use a pitching motion in which, after bringing the hands together in the pitching position, the pitcher removes one hand from the ball and returns the ball to both hands.
- C. The pitcher shall not make a stop or reversal of the forward motion after separating the hands.
- D. The pitcher may take the ball behind the back on the back swing.
- E. The pitcher must not use a windmill or slingshot-type pitch or make a complete revolution in the delivery.
- F. Position of the ball:
 - (9 Player Major/A) No restriction on the back swing or on the downward motion and during the complete delivery.
 - (10-Player) The ball must not be outside the pitcher's wrist on the back swing, at the top of the back swing, on the downward motion, or during the complete delivery.
- G. The delivery must be an underhand motion with the hand below the hip and the pitcher's palm may be pointing downward.
- H. The pitch shall be delivered on the throwing arm side of the body and not behind the back or through the legs.
- I. Arm, shoulder, hip:
 - (9 Player Major/A) No restrictions on the arm. The shoulders and driving hip must be squared to home plate when the ball is released.
 - 2. (10-Player) On the forward swing of the pitching arm, the elbow must be

locked at the point of release, and the shoulders and driving hip must be squared to home plate when the ball is released.

- J. The release of the ball must be on the first forward swing of the pitching arm past the hip. The release must have a complete, smooth follow-through with no abrupt stop of the arm near the hip.
- K. In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher must take one step simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward and toward the batter within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
 - (9 Player Major) The pivot foot must drag and not lose contact with the ground. Raising the foot off the pitching plate and returning it to the plate creates a rocking motion and is an illegal act.
 - 2. (9 Player A / 10 Player) The stepping foot must be pointed toward home plate and must not touch the ground in front of, or cross over a straight line between the pivot foot and home plate. It is not a step if the pitcher slides the pivot foot across the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained with the plate. Raising the foot off the pitching plate and returning it to the plate creates a rocking motion and is an illegal act.



- Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.
- M. The pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll or bounce the ball in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.
- N. The pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball or after the umpire indicates "play ball".

Section 4. INTENTIONAL WALK.

If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter

Section 5. DEFENSIVE POSITIONING.

- A. The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch unless all available defensive players are positioned in fair territory, except the catcher who must be in the catcher's box.
- B. A fielder shall not take a position in the batter's line of vision or, with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. A pitch does not have to be released.
 - **EFFECT**: The offending player shall be ejected from the game.

Section 6. FOREIGN SUBSTANCE.

A. Any defensive player shall not, at any time during the game, be allowed to use any foreign substance upon the ball. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin may be used to dry the hands. Applying resin in the glove and then placing the ball in the glove is an illegal act. Resin must be kept

on the ground behind the pitcher's plate. A pitcher who licks their fingers, must wipe them off before bringing them in contact with the ball.

EFFECT: An illegal pitch shall be called on the first offense. If any defensive player continues to place a foreign substance on the ball, the player should be ejected from the ball game.

B. The pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, forearm, elbow or thighs, which may, in the umpire's judgment, be distracting to the batter. Batting gloves may not be worn on the pitching hand.

Section 7. CATCHER.

- The catcher must remain within the lines of the catcher's box until the pitch is released.
- B. The catcher shall return the ball directly to the pitcher after each pitch, except after a strikeout, put out or an attempted put out made by the catcher. EXCEPTION: Does not apply with a runner(s) on base or the batter becoming a batter-runner

Section 8. THROWING TO A BASE.

The pitcher shall not throw to a base during a live ball while either foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate after the pitcher has taken the pitching position. If the throw from the pitcher's plate occurs during a live ball appeal play, the appeal is canceled. The pitcher may move back from the pitching position by stepping backwards off the pitcher's plate prior to separating hands. Stepping forward or sideways at any time constitutes an illegal pitch.

EFFECT - Sections 1-5, 7,8:

- A. Any infraction of Sections 1-5, 7, 8 is an illegal pitch.
- B. If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and if all other runners have advanced at least one base on the batted ball, the illegal pitch is nullified. All action as a result of the batted ball stands. No option is given. When a runner passes a base, the runner is considered to have touched the base.
- C. Otherwise the manager has the option to take the result of the play, or the illegal pitch is enforced by awarding a ball to the batter (if ball four award first base) and advancing all runners one base.
- D. If an illegal pitch hits the batter out of the strike zone, the batter is awarded first base and all runner(s) are awarded one base.

Section 9. WARM-UP PITCHES.

At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than three pitches. Play shall be suspended during this time. For excessive warm-up pitches, a pitcher shall be penalized by awarding a ball to the batter for each pitch in excess of three. This does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, and other umpire responsibilities. A pitcher returning to pitch in the same half inning will not receive warm-up pitches. There is no limitation as to the number

of times a player can return to the pitching position as long as the player is legally in the game.

Section 10. NO PITCH.

No pitch shall be declared when:

- A. The pitcher pitches during the suspension of play.
- B. The pitcher attempts a quick return of the ball before the batter has taken a position in the batter's box or when the batter is off balance.
- C. A runner is called out for leaving a base prior to the pitcher releasing the pitch.
- A pitch is delivered before a runner has returned to the base after being legitimately off that base.
- E. No player, manager or coach shall call time, employ any other word or phrase, or commit any act while the ball is alive for the purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit an illegal pitch. A warning shall be issued to the offending team, and a repeat of this type act by any member of the team warned shall result in the offender being ejected from the game.

EFFECT - Section 10 A-E: The ball is dead, and all subsequent action on that pitch is canceled.

Section 11. DROPPED BALL.

If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery, a ball is declared on the batter, the ball will remain live and the runners may advance at their own risk.

Section 1. PRELIMINARIES.

A. The pitcher must take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.

EFFECT: Delayed Dead Ball, Illegal Pitch

B. The pitcher must come to a full and complete stop with the ball in front of the body. The front of the body must face the batter. This position must be maintained at least one second before starting the delivery.

EFFECT: Delayed Dead Ball, Illegal Pitch

C. The pitcher shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.

EFFECT: Delayed Dead Ball, Illegal Pitch

D. The pitcher must not simulate a legal pitch while not in contact with the pitchers plate.

EFFECT: A dead ball should be called, an illegal pitch ruled, a warning is issued, and repeated action would result in the pitcher ruled illegal, and removed from the pitching position.

Section 2. STARTING THE PITCH.

The pitch starts when the pitcher makes any motion with the ball after the required stop. While on the pitching plate prior to the required stop, any motion may be used.

Section 3. LEGAL DELIVERY.

- A. The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- B. The delivery is a continuous motion.
- C. The pitcher must not use a delivery in which there is a stop or reversal of the pitching motion.
- D. The pitcher must deliver the ball toward home plate on the first forward swing of the pitching arm past the hip with an underhand motion. The palm of the hand may be over or under the ball.
- E. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the pitched ball leaves the hand. If a step is taken, it may be forward, backward, or to the side, provided the pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate and the step is simultaneous with the release of the ball.
- F. The pitcher must not pitch the ball behind the back or through the legs.
- G. The pitch shall be released at a moderate speed. The speed is left entirely up to the judgment of the umpire. The umpire shall warn the pitcher who delivers a pitch with excessive speed. If the pitcher repeats such an act after being warned, the pitcher shall be removed from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game.
- H. The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground.
- I. The pitcher must not continue any pitching motion after the ball is released.
- J. The pitcher has 10 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball,

or after the umpire indicates "play ball".

K. The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch from the glove.

Section 4. DEFENSIVE POSITIONING.

- A. The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch unless all available players are positioned in fair territory, except the catcher who must be in the catcher's box.
- B. A fielder shall not take a position in the batter's line of vision or, with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. A pitch does not have to be released.

EFFECT: The offending player shall be ejected from the game.

Section 5. FOREIGN SUBSTANCE.

Any defensive player shall not, at any time during the game, be allowed to use any foreign substance upon the ball, the pitching hand or the fingers. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin may be used to dry the hands. The pitcher may wear tape on the fingers or a sweatband on the wrist or forearm of the pitching arm. Batting gloves may not be worn on the pitching hand.

EFFECT: An illegal pitch shall be called on the first offense. If any defensive player continues to place a foreign substance on the ball, the player should be ejected from the ball game.

Section 6. CATCHER.

- A. The catcher must remain within the lines of the catcher's box until the pitched ball is batted, touches the ground, plate, batter, or reaches the catcher's box.
- B. The catcher shall return the ball directly to the pitcher after each pitch, except after a strikeout.

EXCEPTION: Does not apply with a runner(s) on base or the batter becoming a batter-runner.

EFFECT 6-B: An additional ball is awarded to the batter.

Section 7. QUICK PITCH.

The pitcher shall not attempt a quick return of the ball before the batter has taken a position in the batter's box or when the batter is off balance.

EFFECT -Sections 2-4, 7:

- A. Any infraction of Sections 2-4,7 is an illegal pitch.
- B. If a batter swings at or contacts any illegal pitch, it is nullified and all play stands.
- C. If the batter does not swing, a ball shall be called on the batter.

Section 8. WARM-UP PITCHES.

At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than three warm-up pitches. Play shall be suspended during this time. For excessive warm-up pitches, a pitcher shall be penalized by awarding a ball to the batter for each pitch. This does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, and other

umpire responsibilities. A pitcher returning to pitch in the same half inning will not receive warm-up pitches. There is no limitation as to the number of times a player can return to the pitching position as long as the player is legally in the game.

Section 9. NO PITCH.

No pitch shall be declared when:

- A. The pitcher pitches during the suspension of play.
- B. A runner is called out for leaving a base before the pitched ball reaches home plate, is batted, or touches the ground before reaching home plate.
- C. A pitch is delivered before a runner has retouched their base after being legitimately off that base.
- D. The ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery or during the back swing.
- E. No player, manager or coach shall call time, employ any other word or phrase, or commit any act while the ball is live for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit an illegal pitch. A warning shall be issued to the offending team, and a repeat of this type act by any member of the team warned shall result in the offender being ejected from the game.
 - **EFFECT Section 9 A-E:** The ball is dead, and all subsequent action on that pitch is canceled.

RULE 6 - PITCHING REGULATIONS (16" SLOW PITCH)

Section 1. PRELIMINARIES.

- A. The pitcher must take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pitcher's pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate throughout the delivery.
- B. The pitcher must come to a complete stop with the ball in front of the body. The front of the body must face the batter. This position must be maintained at least one second before starting the delivery.
- C. The pitcher shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
- D. The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch while not in contact with the pitcher's plate.
 - **EFFECT:** A dead ball should be called, an illegal pitch ruled, a warning issued, and repeated action would result in the pitcher ruled illegal, and removed from the pitching position.
- E. While the pitcher is in the pitching position, in the motion for the delivery, or in the act of faking a delivery prior to a hesitation, the pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate. After a hesitation, the foot may leave the pitcher's plate during an attempted pickoff or a fake throw. When the pitching motion is restarted, the restriction takes effect again.
- F. The pitcher may not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate without possession of the ball.

Section 2. STARTING THE PITCH.

The pitch starts when the pitcher makes any motion with the ball that is part of the delivery after the required stop. While on the pitching plate, prior to the required stop, any motion may be used.

Section 3. LEGAL DELIVERY.

- A. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the pitched ball leaves the hand. If a step is taken, it can be forward, back, or to the side, provided the pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate and the step is simultaneous with the release of the ball.
- B. The pitcher must not pitch the ball behind the back or through the legs.
- C. The pitch shall be released at a moderate speed. The speed is left entirely up to the judgment of the umpire.
 - **EFFECT:** The umpire shall warn the pitcher who delivers a pitch with excessive speed. If the pitcher repeats such an act after being warned, the pitcher shall be removed from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game.
- D. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground.
- E. The pitcher must not continue their motion after releasing the ball.
- F. The pitcher shall not attempt a pick off after the second hesitation. **EFFECT:** Illegal pitch and the ball is dead.
- G. The pitcher must not commit a third hesitation before the mandatory delivery of a pitch, legal or illegal.

RULE 6 - PITCHING REGULATIONS (16" SLOW PITCH)

Hesitations are defined as:

- Making any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- 2. Using a delivery that is not a continuous motion.
- Using a delivery in which there is a stop or reversal of the pitching motion
- 4. Not delivering the ball toward home plate on the first forward swing of the pitching arm past the hip.
 - a. After a hesitation of the pitching motion, and before a restart of the motion, the pitcher may attempt or fake a throw for a pick off with his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.
 - Runners may be off the bases without penalty during the delivery or fake delivery.
 - c. During the pick off attempt by the pitcher, or the catcher following a pitch, each runner must return to the base occupied at the start of the pitch, and before the runner is touched with the ball.
 - d. If the ball is overthrown, runners may not advance.
 - e. If the thrown ball remains in live ball territory, the runners are in jeopardy until they return to their original bases.
- H. The pitcher has 10 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball, or after the umpire indicates "play ball."
- I. The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch from the glove.

Section 4. DEFENSIVE POSITIONING.

- A. The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch unless all available defensive players are positioned in fair territory, except the catcher who must be in the catcher's box.
- B. A fielder shall not take a position in the batter's line of vision or, with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. A pitch does not have to be released.

EFFECT: The offending player shall be ejected from the game.

Section 5. FOREIGN SUBSTANCE.

Any defensive player shall not, at any time during the game, be allowed to use any foreign substance upon the ball, the pitching hand or the fingers. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin may be used to dry the hands. The pitcher may wear tape on the fingers or a sweatband on the wrist or forearm of the pitching arm. Batting gloves may not be worn on the pitching hand.

EFFECT: An illegal pitch shall be called on the first offense. If any defensive player continues to place a foreign substance on the ball, the player should be ejected from the ball game.

Section 6. CATCHER.

A. The catcher must remain within the lines of the catcher's box until the pitched ball is batted, touches the ground or plate, or reaches the catcher's box.

RULE 6 - PITCHING REGULATIONS (16" SLOW PITCH)

B. The catcher shall return the ball directly to the pitcher after each pitch, except after a strikeout.

EFFECT: An additional ball is awarded to the batter.

EXCEPTION: Does not apply when the batter becomes a batter-runner or there are runners on base

Section 7. QUICK PITCH.

The pitcher shall not attempt a quick return of the ball before the batter has taken a position in the batter's box or when the batter is off balance.

EFFECT - Sections 1-4, and 7:

- A. Any infraction of Sections 1-4 and 7 is an illegal pitch.
- B. If a batter swings at or contacts any illegal pitch, the illegal pitch is nullified and all play stands.
- C. If the batter does not swing, a ball shall be called on the batter. Runners are not advanced

Section 8. WARM-UP PITCHES.

At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than three warm-up pitches. Play shall be suspended during this time. For excessive warm-up pitches, a pitcher shall be penalized by awarding a ball to the batter for each pitch. This does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, and other umpire responsibilities. A pitcher returning to pitch in the same half inning will not receive warm-up pitches. There is no limitation as to the number of times a player can return to the pitching position as long as the player is legally in the game.

Section 9. NO PITCH.

No pitch shall be declared when:

- A. The pitcher pitches during the suspension of play.
- B. The ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery or during the back swing.
- C. No player, manager or coach shall call time, employ any other word or phrase, or commit any act while the ball is live for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit an illegal pitch. A warning shall be issued to the offending team, and a repeat of this type act by any member of the team warned shall result in the offender being ejected from the game.

EFFECT - Section 9 A-C: The ball is dead, and all subsequent action on that pitch is canceled.

Section 1. ON-DECK BATTER.

- A. The on-deck batter shall take a position within the lines of the on-deck circle nearest the offensive team area.
- B. The on-deck batter may loosen up with no more than two official softball bats, an approved warm-up bat, or a combination not to exceed two. Any detachable piece placed on the bat must be approved by the ASA
- C. The on-deck batter may leave the on-deck circle:
 - 1. When they become the batter.
 - 2. To direct runners advancing from third to home plate.
- D. The on-deck batter may not interfere with a defensive player's opportunity to make an out.

EFFECT:

- If it involves a runner, the runner closest to home plate at the time of the interference shall be declared out.
- 2. If it is with the defensive fielder fielding a fly ball, the batter is out.

Section 2. BATTING ORDER.

- A. The batting order shall show the names, first and last, in the order in which the players are scheduled to bat.
- B. The batting order delivered to the umpire must be followed throughout the game, unless a player is replaced by:
 - A substitute who must take the place of the removed player in the batting order, or
 - (Fast Pitch) when the FLEX bats for the DP who will remain in the batting order spot until returning to the 10th spot in the line-up.
- C. The first batter in each inning shall be the batter whose name follows that of the last player who completed a turn at bat in the preceding inning.
 - **EFFECT Section 2 B-C:** Batting out of order is an appeal play that may be made only by the defensive team. The Appeal must be made before the next pitch, legal or illegal, is made to the following batter, or before the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory on their way to the team area.
- D. If batting out of order is discovered:
 - 1. While the incorrect batter is at bat:
 - **EFFECT:** The correct batter must take the batter's position and assume any balls and strikes. Any runs scored or bases run while the incorrect batter was at bat shall be legal. There is no penalty whether discovered by the offense or defense while the incorrect batter is at bat.
 - After the incorrect batter has completed a turn at bat and BEFORE a legal or illegal pitch to the following batter or before the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory: EFFECT:
 - a. The player who should have batted is out.
 - Any advance of runners and any run scored shall be nullified. All outs made stand.

- The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat.
 - **EXCEPTION:** If the incorrect batter is called out as a result of their time at bat, and is scheduled to be the proper batter, skip that player and the next person in the line-up will be the batter.
- d. If the batter declared out is the third out, the correct batter to lead off the next inning shall be the player who would have come to bat had the player been put out by ordinary play.
- After a legal or illegal pitch to the NEXT BATTER, or after the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory:

EFFECT:

- a. The turn at bat of the incorrect batter is legal.
- b. All runs scored and runners advanced, and outs made are legal
- The next batter shall be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter
- No out is called for failure to bat.
- e. Players who have not batted and who have not been called out have lost their turn at bat until reached again in the regular order.
- 4. No runner shall be removed from the base occupied except the batterrunner who has been taken off the base by the umpire as in (2) above to bat in the proper place. The correct batter merely misses the turn at bat with no penalty. The batter following the correct batter in the batting order becomes the legal batter.
- E. The batting order for co-ed shall alternate the sexes. Co-ed play will use an 11-inch red-stitch ball when the female bats and an 12-inch red stitch ball when the male bats.
 - **EFFECT**: If the wrong ball is used, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter bat over and assume the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.
- F. When the third out in an inning is made before the batter has completed a turn at bat, that player shall be the first batter in the next inning.

Section 3. BATTING POSITION.

- A. Prior to the pitch, the batter must have both feet completely within the lines of the batter's box. The batter may touch the lines, but no part of the foot may be outside the lines prior to the pitch.
- B. The batter must take the batter's position within 10 seconds after being directed to do so by the umpire.
 - **EFFECT:** The umpire will call a strike. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is dead
- C. (Junior Olympic, Modified Pitch) After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot between pitches and while taking signals and practice swings.

EXCEPTIONS: The batter can leave the box:

- 1. If the ball is batted fair or foul.
- On the swing, slap or check swing.
- 3. If forced out of the box by a pitch.
- On a wild pitch or passed ball.
- 5. If there is an attempted play.
- If time has been called.
- if time has been called.
- If the pitcher leaves the eight-foot circle or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.
- 8. On a three ball pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball. EFFECT: If the batter leaves the batter's box and delays play; for any other reason the umpire may warn the batter or call a strike. Any number of warnings and called strikes can be made with each batter. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is dead.
- D. The batter shall not step directly in front of the catcher to the other batter's box while the pitcher (FP) is taking the signal or (SP) is in position to pitch, or anytime thereafter prior to the release of the pitch.

EFFECT: The ball is dead, the batter is out and the runners may not advance.

- E. After the ball is live, the batter may not step out of the batter's box to stop play unless time has been granted by the umpire.
 EFFECT:
 - 1. All play shall continue.
 - 2. The pitch will be called a ball or strike.

Section 4. A STRIKE IS CALLED BY THE UMPIRE.

 (Fast Pitch/Slow Pitch with stealing) For each legally pitched ball entering the strike zone.

EFFECT: The ball is live and the runners may advance with liability to be put out.

- B. (Slow Pitch) For each legally pitched ball entering the strike zone before touching the ground and the batter does not swing. Any pitched ball that hits the ground or plate cannot be legally swung at by the batter. If the batter swings and misses prior to the ball hitting the ground or plate, it is a strike.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead.
- C. For each legally pitched ball swung at and missed by the batter.

FAST PITCH/Slow Pitch with stealing

EFFECT: The ball is live and runners may advance with liability to be put out. SLOW PITCH without stealing

EFFECT: The ball is dead.

D. For each foul tip.

EFFECT: (Fast Pitch/Slow pitch with stealing) The ball is live and runners may advance with liability to be put out. The batter is out if it is the third strike.

 (Slow Pitch without stealing) The ball is dead and the batter is out if it is the third strike.

- 2. (16-Inch Slow Pitch) The ball remains live; runners cannot advance.
- E. (Fast Pitch) For each foul ball when the batter has fewer than two strikes.
- F. (Slow Pitch) For each foul ball, including the third strike.
 - NOTE E-F: If a pitched ball is swung at and missed, then hit on follow through, it is a strike and a dead ball.
- G. For each pitched ball swung at and missed which touches any part of the batter.
- H. When any part of the batter's person or clothing is hit with a batted ball while the batter is in the batter's box and (FP) has fewer than two strikes.
- I. When a legally pitched ball hits the batter while the ball is in the strike zone.
- J. If the batter does not take the batter's position within 10 seconds after being directed by the umpire.
- K. (Junior Olympic and Adult Modified Pitch) When, between pitches, the batter leaves the batter's box illegally or does not return to the box after a warning. EFFECT Section 4 E-K: The ball is dead and each runner must return to their base without liability to be put out.
- L. When a pitched ball is prevented from entering the strike zone by any actions by the batter other than hitting the ball.

EFFECT: The ball is dead and a strike is called.

Section 5. A BALL IS CALLED BY THE UMPIRE.

- A. (Fast Pitch) For each legally pitched ball which does not enter the strike zone, touches the ground before reaching home plate, or touches home plate, and the batter does not swing.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is live and runners are entitled to advance with liability to be put out.
- B. (Slow Pitch) For each legally pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone, touches the ground before reaching home plate, or touches home plate and the batter does not swing. Any pitched ball that hits the ground or plate cannot be legally swung at by the batter. If the batter swings at a pitch after the ball hits the ground or plate, it is a ball.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead and runners may not advance.
 - **EXCEPTION:** (16-Inch Slow Pitch): The ball remains live; however, runners cannot advance. If the batter swings at the ball, it would be batter interference
- C. (Fast Pitch) For each illegally pitched ball not swung at or swung at and missed.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead and runners are entitled to advance one base without liability to be put out.
- D. (Slow Pitch) For each illegally pitched ball not swung at.
 - EFFECT: The ball is dead and runners may not advance.
 - **EXCEPTION:** Slow Pitch with stealing unless the ball hits the ground before reaching home plate or hits the plate.
- E. (Slow Pitch with Stealing) When a pitched ball hits the batter outside the strike zone.
- F. When the catcher fails to return the ball directly to the pitcher as required.
- G. For each excessive warm-up pitch.

EFFECT - Section 5 E-G: The ball is dead and runners may not advance.

Section 6. THE BATTER IS OUT.

- A. When the third strike is:
 - Swung at and the pitched ball touches any part of the batter's person, or
 - Is not swung at, and the pitched ball hits the batter while the pitch is in the strike zone.
 - When the pitched ball, in the umpires judgment, is prevented from entering the strike zone by any actions of the batter other than hitting the ball.
- B. When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an altered or non-approved bat.

EFFECT: The batter shall be **ejected** from the game, and if in a tournament, shall be **ejected** for the remainder of the tournament.

C. When the batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an illegal bat.

EFFECT: The batter is called out.

Note: If a previous batter has used the same altered or illegal bat, and a pitch has been **made**, the batter only is out.

- D. When an entire foot is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box when the ball makes contact with the bat.
- E. When any part of a foot is touching home plate when the ball makes contact with the bat.
- F. When a batter leaves the batter's box and returns to the box and makes contact with the ball.
- G. (Fast Pitch) When the batter bunts foul after the second strike. If the ball is caught in the air, it remains live.
- H. (Slow Pitch) When the batter bunts or chops the ball.
- When members of the team at bat, including those in the team area, other than runners interfere with a player attempting to field a fair or foul fly ball.
- J. (16" Slow Pitch) When a batter intentionally hits a pitched ball that first strikes the ground or home plate, to prevent the catcher from executing a pick-off attempt.
- K. When the batter hits a fair ball with the bat a second time in fair territory.

EXCEPTION:

- If the batter is in the batter's box and contact is made while the bat is in the batter's hands,
 - **EFFECT:** Foul ball, even if the ball is hit a second time over fair territory.
- If the batter drops the bat and the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory, and, in the umpire's judgment, there was no intention to interfere with the course of the ball
 - **EFFECT**: The ball is live.
- If contact is made on the follow through, after missing the pitch on the initial swing.
 - EFFECT: It is a dead ball, strike.

- L. Slow Pitch) After a third strike, including a foul ball that is hit after two strikes.
- M. (Fast Pitch) When a called or swinging third strike is caught by the catcher.
- N. (Fast Pitch) When the batter has three strikes and/or if there are fewer than two outs and first base is occupied at the time of the pitch.
- O. Whenever the batter due up has left the game under the Short-handed Rule.
- P. When hindering the catcher from catching or throwing the ball by stepping out of the batter's box.
- Q. When actively hindering the catcher while in the batter's box.
- R. When intentionally interfering with a thrown ball, in or out of the batter's box.
- S. When interfering with a play at home plate.

EFFECT: P-S The ball is dead, the batter is out and each runner must return to the last base that, in the judgment of the umpire, was touched at the time of the interference.

EXCEPTION: If no play is being made and the batter accidentally makes contact with the catcher's return throw to the pitcher, the ball is dead and any advancement of runner(s) shall be nullified.

RULE 8 - BATTER-RUNNER AND RUNNER

Section 1. THE BATTER BECOMES A BATTER-RUNNER.

- A. As soon as the batter legally hits a fair ball.
- B. (Fast Pitch) When the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground and there are;
 - 1. Fewer than two outs and first base is not occupied at the time of the pitch, or
 - Any time there are two outs.

EXCEPTION: (Junior Olympic 10-Under Class B Fast Pitch Only) The batter is out.

C. When four balls have been called by the umpire. The batter-runner is awarded first base.

EFFECT:

- (Fast Pitch) The ball is live unless it has been blocked.
- (Slow Pitch) The ball is dead and runners may not advance unless forced.

EXCEPTION: Slow Pitch with stealing unless the ball hits the ground before reaching home plate, hits home plate or the batter.

3. (Slow Pitch) If the defensive team desires to walk a batter intentionally, they may do so by notifying the plate umpire who shall award the batter first base. When two batters are to be walked intentionally, the second intentional walk may not be administered until the first batter reaches first base. If the umpire mistakenly allows two walks at one time and the first batter fails to touch first base, an appeal shall not be honored on the first batter.

EFFECT: The ball is dead

(Co-ed) The ball is dead. A walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) shall bat.

EFFECT: The ball is dead

EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

EFFECT: Should the female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during this dead ball period. A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.

D. When the catcher obstructs a batter's attempt to hit a pitched ball.

EFFECT: Catcher's obstruction is a delayed dead ball in 1 and 2:

 If the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely, and all other runners have advanced at least one base:

EFFECT: Obstruction is canceled. All action as a result of the batted ball stands. No option is given. Once a runner has passed a base, the runner is considered to have reached that base.

If the batter-runner hits the ball and does not reach first base safely and all other runners do not advance at least one base.

EFFECT: The manager has the option to take the result of the play, or enforcement of obstruction by awarding the batter first base and advancing all runners if forced.

3. The catcher steps on, or in front of home plate without the ball and prevents the batter from hitting the ball.

RULE 8 - BATTER-RUNNER AND RUNNER

EFFECT: The ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base, all other runners are advanced one base if forced.

4. (FP) On a swing or attempted bunt, the catcher or any other fielder prevents the batter from hitting the ball, touch the batter or their bat with a runner on third base trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal.

EFFECT: The ball is dead. The runner shall be awarded home plate and the batter shall be awarded first base on the obstruction. All other runners shall be advanced one base, if forced.

- E. When a fair batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment, or clothing of an umpire or a runner.
 - 1. After touching a fielder including the pitcher:

EFFECT: The ball is live.

After passing a fielder other than the pitcher and no other fielder had a opportunity to make an out:

EFFECT: The ball is live.

3. Before passing a fielder without being touched:

EFFECT: The ball is dead.

4. Before passing a fielder, excluding the pitcher and contacts a runner who is off the base:

EFFECT: The ball is dead. The runner is out. The batter-runner is awarded first base and any other runners advance one base if forced. All other runners not forced to advance must return to the base reached prior to the interference.

- 5. Passes a fielder and another fielder has the opportunity to make an out: EFFECT: The ball is dead. The runner is out. The batter-runner is awarded first base and all other runners advance one base if forced. All other runners not forced to advance must return to the base reached prior to the interference
- 6. Touches a runner in contact with a base:

EFFECT: The runner is not out. The ball is live or dead depending on the position of the fielder closest to the base.

7. Contacts an umpire before passing a fielder other than the pitcher:

EFFECT: The ball is dead. The batter-runner is awarded first base. All other runners advance one base if forced. All other runners not forced to advance must return to the base reached prior to the interference.

F. (Fast Pitch) When a pitched ball not swung at nor called a strike touches any part of the batter's person or clothing.

EFFECT: The ball is dead. The batter is entitled to one base without liability to be put out.

EXCEPTION: If no attempt is made to avoid being hit, the batter will not be awarded first base unless it is ball four.

NOTE: The batter's hands are not part of the bat.

G. (Fast Pitch) If the batter is hit anywhere, including the hands, while swinging at a pitch:

EFFECT: The ball is dead and a strike called. If it is strike three, the batter is out.

RULE 8 - BATTER-RUNNER AND RUNNER

Section 2. BATTER-RUNNER IS OUT.

- A. (Fast Pitch) When the catcher drops the third strike and is put out prior to reaching first base with two outs or with less than two outs and first base is not occupied at the time of the pitch.
- B. When after hitting a fair ball the batter-runner is put out prior to reaching first base.
- C. When, after a fly ball is hit, the ball is caught by a fielder before it touches the ground, any object or person other than a defensive player.

EFFECT - Section 2 A-C: The ball is live

D. When the batter-runner fails to advance to first base and enters the team area after a batted fair ball, a base on balls, a hit batter (Fast Pitch), a dropped third strike, or catcher obstruction.

EXCEPTION: (Slow Pitch) The ball is dead when runners are not required to run bases on a home run or four base award, or on a base on balls, or (Fast Pitch) on a hit batter. The batter-runner is not out. Other than on a home run or four base award, runners cannot advance unless forced.

- E. When the batter-runner runs outside the three-foot lane and, in the judgment of the umpire, interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base; however, the batter-runner may run outside the three-foot lane to avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball. When the defensive player uses the colored portion of the double base, the batter-runner can run in fair territory when the throw is coming from the foul side of first base, and if hit by the thrown ball, it is not interference. If intentional interference is ruled, the runner is out.
- F. When the batter-runner interferes with:
 - a fielder attempting to field a batted ball,
 - 2. a fielder attempting to throw the ball,
 - a thrown ball while out of the batter's box,
 - 4. by making contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base,
 - 5. by discarding their bat in a manner that prevents the defense from making a play on the ball,
 - 6. (Fast Pitch) a dropped third strike.

NOTE: If this interference is an attempt to prevent a double play, the runner closest to home plate shall be called out.

G. When the batter-runner interferes with a play at home plate in an attempt to prevent an out at home plate.

EFFECT: The runner is also out

H. When the batter-runner steps back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag by a fielder.

EFFECT - Section 2 D-H: The ball is dead and runner(s) must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the interference.

- When an infield fly is declared. The fair batted ball hits the batter-runner before reaching first base, the ball is dead and the infield fly is invoked.
- J. When an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball, including a line drive or a bunt, which can be caught with ordinary effort with first, first and second, first and third or first, second and third bases occupied with fewer than two outs.
 EFFECT: The ball is dead. All runners must return to the last base touched at the

- time of the pitch. If an infield fly is ruled, it has precedence over an intentionally dropped ball.
- K. When the immediate preceding runner who is not out intentionally interferes, in the umpire's judgment, with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or throw a ball in an attempt to complete the play on the batter-runner.

EFFECT: The runner shall also be called out.

- (Slow Pitch) For excess over-the-fence home runs. In men's class D it also ends the inning.
- M. The double base shall be used at first base in all divisions of play. The following rules should be enforced:
 - 1. A batted ball hitting or bounding over the white portion is fair.
 - A batted ball hitting or bounding over the colored portion is foul.
 - 3. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion of the base. EFFECT: The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the white portion, providing the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base. Once the runner returns to the white or colored portion of the base, no appeal can be made.
 - On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base the defense and the batter-runner may use either the white or colored portion of the base.
 - On an errant throw pulling the defense off the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or colored portion.
 - On balls hit to the outfield with no play on the batter-runner advancing to first base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the batter-runner return, the runner may return to the white or colored portion.
 - 7. When tagging up on a fly ball, the white or colored portion may be used.
 - 8. (Fast Pitch, Slow Pitch with stealing & 16-Inch Slow Pitch) On an attempted pick-off play, the runner may return to the white or colored portion.
 - When there is a force play on the batter-runner, who touches only the white portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the white.

EFFECT M-9: Interference, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out, all runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of interference.

N. When a spectator reaches into live ball territory and interferes with a fielder's opportunity to catch a fly ball:

EFFECT: The ball is dead. The batter is out and all runners are awarded the bases that in the umpire's judgment, they would have reached.

Section 3. TOUCHING BASES IN LEGAL ORDER.

A. When a runner must return to a base while the ball is live or dead, the bases must be touched in reverse order.

EFFECT: The runner is out, if properly appealed.

EXCEPTION: On a foul ball.

B. When a runner or batter-runner acquires the right to a base by touching it before

being put out, the runner or batter-runner is entitled to hold the base until legally touching the next base in order or is forced to vacate it for a succeeding runner. When a runner passes a base, the runner is considered to have touched the base. This also applies to awarded bases.

C. When a runner dislodges a base from its proper position, that runner and succeeding runner(s) in the same series of plays are not compelled to follow a base out of position.

EFFECT - Section 3 B-C: The ball is live and runners may advance or return with liability to be put out.

D. A runner shall not run bases in reverse order to confuse the fielders nor to make a travesty of the game.

EFFECT: The ball is dead and the runner is out.

- E. Two runners may not occupy the same base simultaneously. EFFECT: The runner who first legally occupied the base is entitled to that base, unless forced to advance. The other runner may be put out by being tagged with the ball
- F. Failure of a PRECEDING runner to touch a base or to legally tag up on a caught fly ball, and who is declared out, does not affect the status of a SUC-CEEDING runner who touches bases in proper order. If the failure to touch a base in regular order or to legally tag up on a caught fly ball is the third out of the inning, no SUCCEEDING runner may score a run.
- G. No runner may return to touch a base missed or one left too soon after a succeeding runner has scored or once they leave live ball territory.
- H. Bases left too soon on a caught fly ball must be retouched prior to advancing to awarded bases.
- I. Awarded bases must be touched in legal order.

EXCEPTION: Women's Open, Co-ed Major, and all Men's Class "A" Slow Pitch. (This does not apply to Master's and Senior's Play). On any fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run or on a four base award, the batter and all runners are credited with a run The batter and any runners on base are not required to run the bases. This eliminates any appeal play on runners.

Section 4. RUNNERS ARE ENTITLED TO ADVANCE WITH LIABILITY TO BE PUT OUT.

- A. (Fast Pitch) When the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on the delivery.
- B. On a thrown ball or a fair batted ball that is not blocked.
- C. On a thrown ball that hits an umpire.
- D. When a legally caught fly ball is first touched by a defensive player.
- E. If a fair ball
 - Contacts an umpire or a runner after having passed a fielder other than the pitcher, and provided no other fielder had a chance to make an out, or
 - When a fair batted ball has been touched by a fielder, including the pitcher, and the runner did not intentionally interfere with the batted ball or the

fielder attempting to field the batted ball.

EFFECT - Section 4 A-E: The ball is live.

- F. (Men's Slow Pitch & Women's Open Slow Pitch). This does not apply to Master's and Senior's Play, Co-ed Slow Pitch or Junior Olympic). Runners may advance when the ball reaches home plate, or
 - 1. When a pitched ball is batted.
 - 2. Until the pitcher has possession of the ball in the infield and all immediate play has apparently been completed.
 - 3. Slow Pitch with stealing, Runners may advance when a pitched ball, legal or illegal reaches the front edge of home plate.
 - When a pitched ball that hits behind home plate and strikes the umpire, or a thrown ball by the catcher that strikes the umpire.
- G. (10-Under Class B Fast Pitch) Runners starting at first or second base are entitled to advance or steal one base only per pitch. Runners starting at third base may not steal or advance home but are liable to be put out if they are off the base.
 - A runner, attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitled to advance or steal:
 - **EFFECT:** May be put out while between bases. A runner cannot be put out while in sole contact with a base.
 - After all play ceases and the ball is dead if a runner occupies a base beyond the one the runner was entitled to advance or steal:

EFFECT: The runner will be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.

- 3. If a batter strikes out and the ball is dropped by the catcher or touches the ground before reaching the catcher:
 - **EFFECT:** The batter is out and the ball is live.
- A batter, who receives a base on balls, cannot advance past first base. If the batter-runner advances further, once the ball becomes dead, return the batter-runner to first base.
- 5. Awarded bases will apply to all runners.
- 6. Runners can only score on:
 - a. a batted ball,
 - b. a base on balls
 - c. hit batter with the bases full, or
 - d. on an awarded base.

NOTE: THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO 10U CLASS A

- H. When a live ball becomes lodged in a defensive player's uniform or equipment.
- While the ball is live or on awarded bases, the runner fails to touch a base before attempting to make the next base.
- J. After overrunning first base, the runner attempts to continue to second base.
- K. After dislodging a base, a runner attempts to continue to the next base.
- L. (16-Inch Slow Pitch) A runner may lead off any base with the risk of being picked off by a throw from the pitcher or catcher. If a throw results in an **overthrow** or

blocked ball, no runners may advance. Any runner advancing on a pitch not batted is liable to be put out if tagged before returning to their original base.

Section 5. RUNNERS ARE ENTITLED TO ADVANCE WITHOUT LIABILITY TO BE PUT OUT.

A. When forced to vacate a base because the batter was awarded a base on balls. EFFECT: (Fast Pitch) The ball remains live unless it is blocked. Any runner affected is entitled to one base and may advance farther with liability to be put out if the ball is live. (Slow Pitch) The ball is dead.

EXCEPTION: In 16" Slow Pitch and all divisions with stealing, the ball remains live

B. When a fielder not in possession of the ball or not in the act of fielding a batted ball, obstructs the progress of a runner or batter-runner that is legally running the bases.

Obstructed runners are required to touch all bases in proper order.

EFFECT: They shall be called out on appeal by the defensive team.

NOTE: Should any act of interference occur following any obstruction, enforcement of the interference penalty has precedence.

EXCEPTIONS:

- An obstructed runner may not be called out between the two bases where obstructed
 - a. when an obstructed runner, after the obstruction, safely obtains the base they would have been awarded, in the umpire's judgment, had there been no obstruction and there is a subsequent play on a different runner,

EFFECT: The obstructed runner is no longer protected between the bases where they were obstructed and may be put out.

- b. an act of interference, or
- c. if passing another runner.
- d. missing a base
- e. leaving a base before a fly ball was first touched
- If the obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the base which would have been reached had there not been obstruction,

EFFECT: A dead ball is called and the obstructed runner and all other runners shall be awarded the base or bases which would have been reached, in the umpire's judgment, had there not been obstruction.

- 3. If the obstructed runner is put out after passing the base which would have been reached had there been no obstruction or advanced beyond the two bases where the obstruction occurred,
 - **EFFECT:** The obstructed runner will be called out. The ball remains live.
- 4. When a runner, while advancing or returning to a base
 - a. Is obstructed by a fielder who neither has the ball or
 - b. Is attempting to field a batted or thrown ball, or
 - c. When a fielder fakes a tag without the ball

EFFECT: The obstructed runner and all other runners shall always

be awarded the base or bases which would have been reached, in the umpire's judgment, had there been no obstruction.

NOTE: If the umpire feels there is justification, a defensive player making a fake tag could be ejected from the game.

EFFECT: B1-4 When any obstruction occurs, a delayed dead ball is ruled

C. (Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch with stealing) When a pitched ball that remains live becomes blocked or goes out of live ball territory.

EFFECT: The ball is dead and all runners are awarded one base only. The batter is awarded first base only on the fourth ball.

- D. When forced to vacate a base because the batter was awarded first base.
- E. (Fast Pitch) When a pitcher makes an illegal pitch, providing the offensive coach does not take the result of the play.
- F. When a fielder intentionally contacts or catches a fair batted, a thrown, or a pitched ball with any part of the uniform or equipment that is detached from its proper place.

EFFECT: Delayed Dead Ball and the batter and runners are entitled to:

- 1. three bases from the time of the pitch if a batted ball,
- 2. two bases from the time of the throw if a thrown ball,
- 3. one base from the time of the pitch if a pitched ball
 - a. In all games with stealing runners may advance farther with liability to be put out.
 - A batter is awarded one base only on the third strike in Fast Pitch and Modified
- 4. If the illegal catch or touch is made on a fair hit ball which, in the judgment of the umpire, would have cleared the outfield fence in flight, the batter-runner shall be awarded a four base award.
- On a pitched ball that eludes the catcher and is retrieved with detached equipment, there is no penalty if:
 - a. the runner(s) are not advancing,
 - b. no apparent play is possible, or
 - c. no advantage is gained.
- G. When the ball is live and is overthrown or is blocked:

EFFECT: All runners shall be awarded two bases. The award shall be governed by the position of the runners when the ball left the fielder's hand. Runners must return to touch a base missed or a base left too soon. When two runners are between the same two bases, the award is based on the position of the lead runner. Once a base runner advances to the next awarded base, the runner may no longer return to touch any base missed or any base left too soon.

EXCEPTION:

- When a fielder loses possession of the ball, and the ball leaves live ball territory or becomes blocked.
 - **EFFECT**: Each runner is awarded one base from the last base touched at the time the ball entered the dead ball area or became blocked.
- When the ball becomes dead, runners must return to touch a base missed or bases left too soon if they have advanced, touched, and are a base

beyond the base missed or the base left too soon. Runners must be given the opportunity to complete their base running responsibilities. A runner shall not be declared out if a fielder deliberately carries or throws the ball into dead ball territory to prevent that runner from returning to a base missed or a base left too soon. Once a runner has entered live dead ball territory, they cannot return to touch a missed base or one left too soon.

If the ball becomes blocked due to offensive equipment not involved in the game.

EFFECT: The ball is dead and runners are returned to the last base touched at the time of the blocked ball. If the blocked ball prevented the defense from making an out, the runner being played on is out.

- If a base is awarded in error, after a legal or illegal pitch the error cannot be corrected.
- H. When a fair batted fly ball strikes the foul pole above the fence level or leaves the playing field in fair territory without touching the ground or going through the fence.

EFFECT: The batter-runner shall be entitled to a home run, unless it passes out of the grounds at a distance less than the prescribed fence distances from home plate, in which case the batter-runner is entitled to two bases.

- I. When a fair ball bounces over, rolls under or through a fence or any designated boundary of the playing field. When the ball deflects off a defensive player and goes out of play in foul ball territory, deflects off a runner or umpire and goes out of play into foul ball territory, after having passed an infielder excluding the pitcher and provided no other infielder had a chance to make an out.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead, and all runners are awarded two bases from the time of the pitch.
- J. When a live ball is unintentionally carried by a fielder from live ball territory. A fielder carrying a live ball into the team area to tag a player is considered to have unintentionally carried it there.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead and runners are awarded one base from the last base touched at the time the fielder left live ball territory.
- K. When in the judgment of the umpire, a fielder intentionally carries, kicks, pushes or throws a live ball from live ball territory.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead. All runners are awarded two bases from the last base touched at the time the fielder left or the ball was kicked, pushed or thrown from the live ball territory.
- L. When there is spectator interference with any thrown or fair batted ball.
 EFFECT: The ball is dead at the moment of interference.
- M. When a ball gets lodged in
 - 1. umpire's gear or clothing or
 - 2. in an offensive player's clothing.

EFFECT: The ball is dead and the umpire should award runners the bases the runners would have reached.

Section 6. A RUNNER MUST RETURN TO THEIR BASE.

- When a batted ball is foul.
- B. When an illegally batted ball is declared by the umpire.
- C. When a batter, batter-runner or runner is called out for interference. All other runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference-
- D. (Fast Pitch) When any part of the batter's person or clothing is touched by a pitched ball that is swung at and missed.
- E. (Fast Pitch) When the batter is hit by a pitched ball, unless forced.

EFFECT - Section 6 A-E:

- The ball is dead.
- All runners must return to their base without liability to be put out, except when forced to advance to the next base because the batter became a batter-runner.
- Runners are not required to touch the intervening bases while returning to a base.
- F. (Fast Pitch, Slow Pitch with stealing or 16" Slow Pitch) When the plate umpire interferes with the catcher's attempt to throw out a runner stealing, or an attempted pick off play.

EFFECT.

- Delayed dead ball at the time of the interference. If the runner is ruled out, the ball remains live.
- 2. If the runner is not out, the ball becomes dead. The runner(s) shall be returned to the base occupied at the start of the pitch.

NOTE: It is not umpire interference if, on a passed ball or wild pitch, the umpire gets hit by a thrown ball from the catcher. The ball is live.

G. (Slow Pitch) When base stealing is not allowed.

EFFECT: Runners must return to their base after each pitch.

EXCEPTION: (Slow Pitch with stealing) Runners may advance after the ball reaches the front edge of home plate.

H. When an intentionally dropped ball is ruled.

Section 7. THE RUNNER IS OUT.

- A. When running to any base in regular or reverse order and the runner runs more than three feet from the base path to avoid being touched by the ball in the hand(s) of a fielder.
- B. When the ball is live and while the runner is not in contact with a base, the runner is legally touched with the ball in the hand(s) of a fielder.
- C. When, on a force play, a fielder contacts the base while holding the ball, or tags the runner before the runner reaches the base. If the forced runner, after touching the next base, retreats for any reason towards the base first occupied, the force play is reinstated and the runner may again be put out if the defense tags the runner or the base to which the runner is forced.
- D. When the runner physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been called out. If this was the third out of the inning, any runs scored prior to the out for passing a preceding runner count.
- E. When any offensive team member other than another runner physically as-

sists a runner while the ball is live.

EFFECT - Section 7 A-E: The ball is live and the runner is out. In D and E, the runner passing or assisted is called out.

EXCEPTION – **Section E:** After a runner has scored and missed home plate and then is physically assisted back to home plate, the ball is dead, the runner is out and the run is nullified.

- F. When the runner leaves a base to advance to another base before a caught fly ball has touched a fielder, provided the ball is returned to an infielder and properly appealed.
- G. When the runner fails to touch the intervening base or bases in regular or reverse order and the ball is returned to an infielder and properly appealed. If the runner put out is the batter-runner at first base, or any other runner forced to advance because the batter became a batter-runner, this is a force out.
- H. When the batter-runner legally overruns first base, attempts to run to second base and is legally touched while not in contact with the base.
- I. When running or sliding for any base and the runner fails to touch it, provided a fielder properly appeals.

EFFECT - Section 7 F-I:

- These are appeal plays. The defensive team loses the opportunity of having the runner called out if any of the following occurred:
 - a) The appeal is not made before the next legal or illegal pitch,
 - The pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory on their way to the team area, or
 - On the last play of the game the umpires have left the live ball territory.
- 2. (Live Ball Appeal) If properly appealed during a live ball, the runner is out.
 - 3. (Dead Ball Appeal) Once the ball has been returned to the infield and time is called, any infielder with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball. No runner may leave a base during this period as the ball remains dead until the next pitch.
 - a. If the ball leaves live ball territory, a dead ball appeal cannot be made until completion of all legal advancement of all base runners.
 - b. If the pitcher has possession of the ball and is in contact with the pitching plate when making a verbal appeal, no illegal pitch is called.
 - c. If "play ball" has been declared by the umpire and the pitcher then requests an appeal, the umpire shall again call "time" and allow the appeal process.
- J. When the runner interferes:
 - 1. With a fielder attempting to field a batted fair ball or a foul fly ball, or
 - 2. With a fielder attempting to throw the ball, or
 - 3. With a thrown ball.

EFFECT: If this interference, in the judgment of the umpire, is an attempt to prevent a double play and occurs before the runner is put out, the immediate succeeding runner shall also be called out.

4. Intentionally with any defensive player having the opportunity to make an out with the deflected batted ball.

EFFECT: The ball is dead and the runner is out. All other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

- K. When a runner is struck with a fair untouched batted ball while not in contact with a base and before it passes another fielder, excluding the pitcher, or if it passes an infielder and another infielder has an opportunity to make an out.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead and the runner is out. All other runners must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the interference.
- L. When the runner intentionally kicks a fair ball that an infielder has missed.

EFFECT: The ball is dead. All other runners must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the interference.

NOTE: Section 7 J-L: When runners are called out for interference, the batter-runner is awarded first base.

EXCEPTION: If the interference prevents the fielder from catching a routine fly ball, fair or foul, with ordinary effort, the batter is also out.

- M. When the coach near third base runs in the direction of home plate on or near the baseline while a fielder is attempting to make a play on a batted or thrown ball and thereby draws a throw to home plate.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead. The runner closest to home is out. Runners not out must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- N. When member(s) of the offensive team stand or collect around a base to which a runner is advancing, confusing the fielders and adding to the difficulty of making the play.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead. The runner closest to home is out. Runners not out must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- O. When a coach intentionally interferes with a batted or thrown ball, or interferes with the defensive team's opportunity to make a play on another runner. A batted or thrown ball that unintentionally hits a base coach is not considered interference.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead. The runner closest to home is out. Runners not out must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the interference.
 - **NOTE:** A batted or thrown ball that unintentionally hits a base coach is not considered interference.
- P. When, after being declared out or after scoring, an offensive player interferes with a defensive player's opportunity to make a play on another runner.
 - **EFFECT:** The ball is dead. The runner closest to home plate at the time of the interference is out. All runners not out must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
 - **NOTE:** A runner continuing to run and drawing a throw may be considered a form of interference. This does not apply to the batter-runner running on the dropped third strike rule.
- Q. When a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains upright and crashes into the defensive player.
 - EFFECT: The ball is dead. The runner is out. All runners must return to the

- last base touched. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected.
- R. (Slow Pitch) When the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which they are entitled until a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground, or reaches home plate. EXCEPTION: (16-Inch Slow Pitch) A runner may leave a base as soon as the ball is put in play.
- S. (Fast Pitch) When the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which the runner is entitled until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
 - **EFFECT Sections 8 R-S:** The ball is dead, "no pitch" is declared when applicable, and the runner is out.
- T. (Fast Pitch) LOOK BACK RULE.
 - The "Look Back" rule will be in effect for all runners when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out, and the pitcher has possession and control of the ball within the pitcher's circle. The pitcher is considered to be in the pitcher's circle when both feet are on or within the lines.
- When a runner is legitimately off a base after a pitch or as a result of a batter completing a turn at bat, and while the pitcher has control of the ball within the eight foot radius of the pitcher's plate, the runner may stop once, but then must immediately return to the base or attempt to advance to the next base.
- 2. Once the runner stops at a base for any reason, the runner will be declared out if leaving the base.
- Responsibilities of the batter-runner after touching first base, and while the
 pitcher has control of the ball within the eight foot radius of the pitcher's plate.
 This includes a base on balls or a dropped third strike.

EXCEPTION 10-U Class B fast pitch).

- a. A batter-runner who rounds first base toward second base may stop, but then must immediately without stopping return to first base or attempt to advance non-stop to second base.
- b. A batter-runner who over-runs first base toward right field, turns left and immediately stops, must then return non-stop to first base or attempt to advance non-stop to second base.
- c. A batter-runner who over-runs first base toward right field, turns left and moves directly toward second base and stops is committed to second base and must attempt to advance non-stop to second base.
- d. A batter-runner who over-runs first base toward right field, turns left and moves back toward the infield in any direction except directly toward second base is committed to first base and must return non-stop to first base.
 - A batter-runner who over-runs first base toward right field, and turns right, is committed to first base and must return non-stop to first base.

EFFECT - Section 7-T (1-3): The ball is dead. "No pitch" is declared when applicable, and the runner is out. If more than one runner is off base, when one is called out, the ball is dead and other runners are returned to the last base touched. One runner only may be called out.

EXCEPTION: The runner will not be declared out if

- 1. A play is made on any runner. A fake throw is considered a play,
- 2. The pitcher no longer has possession of the ball within the eight foot radius, or
- 3. The pitcher releases the ball on a pitch to the batter.
- When a runner abandons a base and enters the team area or leaves live ball territory.
- V. When a runner is positioned behind and not in contact with a base to get a running start on any fly ball.

EFFECT: The ball remains live.

- W. Whenever a runner on base leaves the game under the shorthanded rule. (Rule 4, Section 1D)
- X. Prior to a legal or illegal pitch to the next batter, if the runner was discovered having used an illegal bat or non-approved bat:

EFFECT: The runner shall be called out. If the bat was altered, the runner shall also be ejected. In either case, if the altered/illegal bat is discovered prior to the next pitch, any runners put out prior to the discovery shall remain out.

Y. When, following an offensive conference, base runners switch positions on the bases they occupied.

EFFECT: Each runner on an improper base shall be declared out. In addition, the head coach shall be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Section 8. RUNNER IS NOT OUT.

- A. When a runner runs behind or in front of the fielder and outside the base path in order to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball.
- B. When a runner does not run in a direct line to a base, provided the fielder in the direct line does not have the ball in their possession.
- C. When more than one fielder attempts to field a batted ball and the runner comes into contact with the one who, in the judgment of the umpire, could not have made an out.
- D. When a runner is hit with a fair, untouched batted ball that has passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher, and, in the judgment of the umpire, no other fielder had an opportunity to make an out.
- E. When a runner is hit with a fair untouched batted ball over foul territory that, in the judgment of the umpire, no fielder had an opportunity to make an out.
- F. When a runner is hit by a fair batted ball after it touches, or is touched by, any fielder, including the pitcher, and the runner could not avoid contact with the ball.
- G. When a runner is touched while off a base:
 - With a ball not securely held by a fielder.
 - With a hand or glove of a defensive player and the ball is in the other hand.
- H. When the defensive team does not appeal
 - Until after the next legal or illegal pitch, or
 - Until after the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory on their way to the team area,

or

- 3. After the last play of the game, the umpires have left live ball territory.
- When a batter-runner overruns first base after touching it and returns directly to the base.
- J. When the runner is not given sufficient time to return to a base.
 EFFECT: The runner will not be called out for being off a base before the pitcher releases the ball. "No pitch" will be called by the umpire.
- K. When the runner has legally started to advance.
 - **EFFECT:** The runner may not be stopped by the pitcher receiving the ball while on the pitching plate, or by the pitcher stepping on the pitching plate with the ball in their possession.
- L. When the runner stays on the base until a fly ball touches a fielder and then attempts to advance.
- M. When hit by a batted ball while touching the base, unless the runner intentionally interferes with the ball or a fielder making a play.
- N. When the runner slides into a base and dislodges it from its proper position. The base is considered to have followed the runner.
- O. When a fielder makes a play on a batter, batter-runner or runner while using an illegal glove/mitt, and it is discovered by the umpire before:
 - The next legal or illegal pitch or
 - 2. The pitcher and all infielders have vacated their normal defensive positions and have left fair territory or—
 - 3. The umpires have left live ball territory,

EFFECT: The manager of the offended team is given two options:

- a. Have the entire play nullified with each runner returning to their original base and the batter batting again, assuming the ball and strike count prior to the pitch that was hit or on a steal attempt.
- Take the result of the play.
- P. When a runner legally returns to a base left too soon or missed prior to an appeal being made, or is returning to a base during a dead ball.

Section 9. RUNNING (MASTERS AND SENIORS)

- A. (Masters and Seniors Fast Pitch).
 - 1. Courtesy Runners may be used only for the pitcher and the catcher.
 - The pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position on defense. In the top of the first inning only, the pitcher and catcher are identified as those players listed on the line-up card as pitcher and catcher.
 - Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. One courtesy runner only may be used per inning.
- B. Masters/Senior Men and Women Slow Pitch
 - (Senior Men and Senior Women) Unlimited courtesy runners are allowed each inning.
 - 2. (Women's Master 35-OSP, Men's Master 40-OSP and 45-OSP) Any eligible

player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. -one courtesy runner only may be used per inning.

C. Courtesy Runners

at this time

- A courtesy runner is in the game when announced by the offensive team representative.
- A courtesy runner whose turn at bat comes while on base:
 EFFECT: Will be called out. The courtesy runner will be removed from the base take their turn at bat. A second courtesy runner cannot be substituted
- 3. A player may be a courtesy runner only once an inning.

EFFECT: If a courtesy runner is used more than once they will be called out and removed from the base.

- A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner except for an injury.
 - **EFFECT:** Violations result in an out and the runner is removed from the base.
- A runner who is replaced with a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.

EFFECT: Violations result in an out and the runner is removed from the base.

D. Senior Slow Pitch

- Defensive players can touch only the original home plate and runners can touch only the second home plate.
- Runners must touch the second home plate located adjacent to the righthanded batter's box in order to be safe at home.
- 3. Runners tagged by a defensive player will not be out.
- Should a defensive player touch the second home plate and still touch the original home plate before the runner reaches the second home plate, the runner is out.
- If the runner touches the original home plate, the runner is out and the ball remains live.
- 6. Once a runner passes the commitment line 20 foot marking, from a second home plate, the runner cannot return to third base.
 - **EFFECT:** The runner is called out if the runner returns, and the ball remains live.
- 7. If the runner has passed the commitment line, 20 foot marking, and continues running on the original foul line, and interferes with the fielder taking a throw at, or in contact with the original home plate:
 - EFFECT: A dead ball should be declared and the runner is out.

Section 10. COURTESY RUNNERS (GIRLS AND BOYS J. O. FAST PITCH).

- A. The team at bat may use a courtesy runner:
 - 1. For the pitcher and/or the catcher at any time.
 - Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.

- 3 The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher in the same half inning or at any time during the game.
- B. In the top of the first inning only, the pitcher and catcher are identified as those players listed on the line-up as the pitcher and catcher. Thereafter, the pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position on defense. If a substitute enters in the following half inning and gets on base, should the pitcher or catcher re-enter no courtesy runner can be utilized for the pitcher or catcher during that half inning
- C. Players who are currently in the game or have participated in the game in any other playing capacity are not eligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- D. A player may not be a substitute for any player in the half inning that they participated as a courtesy runner.
 - **EXCEPTION:** Should an injury or disqualification occur and no substitutes are available the courtesy runner must be used as a substitute and take the place of the injured player. Should the courtesy runner be on base and is entered as a substitute, the pitcher or catcher for whom the courtesy runner is running, must run in their place.
- E. The courtesy runner is not permitted to run as a courtesy runner for the Designated Player (DP) if the DP is batting for the pitcher or the catcher.
- F. Once the courtesy runner is designated for that half-inning, the pitcher or catcher for whom they are running may not return to run while that courtesy runner is on base. A courtesy runner cannot run for a courtesy runner.
 - **EXCEPTION:** Should an injury or disqualification occur to any offensive player, and no substitutes are available, the courtesy runner must take the place of the injured player. In this case, the courtesy runner enters as a substitute and the pitcher or catcher for whom the courtesy runner is running must run in their place.
- G. A courtesy runner must be reported to the plate umpire. **EFFECT A-G:** If a courtesy runner fails to report or violates the courtesy runner rule they are considered an illegal runner and shall be disqualified.

RULE 9 - PROTESTS

- **Section 1.** Protests will not be considered if based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire.
 - A. Examples of protests which will not be considered are:
 - Whether a batted ball was fair or foul.
 - Whether a runner was safe or out
 - 3. Whether a pitched ball was a ball or a strike.
 - 4. Whether there is a legal or illegal pitch.
 - Whether a runner did or did not touch a base.
 - Whether a runner did or did not leave a base too soon on a caught fly hall
 - 7. Whether a fly ball was or was not caught legally.
 - 8. Whether a batted ball was or was not an infield fly.
 - 9. Whether there was or was not interference or obstruction.
 - 10. Whether the field is or is not fit to continue or resume play.
 - 11. Whether there is or is not sufficient light to continue play.
 - Whether a player or live ball did or did not leave the live ball territory or touch some object or person in a dead ball area.
 - 13. Whether a batted ball did or did not clear the fence in flight.
 - Whether a batted ball was or was not touched by a fielder before clearing the fence in flight.
 - B. Any other matter involving only the accuracy of the umpire's judgment.

Section 2. PROTESTS. There are three types of protests:

- A. Misinterpretation of a playing rule must be made:
 - before the next pitch,
 - 2. before the next play
 - 3. before all infielders have left fair territory,
 - 4. on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave live ball territory
- B. Illegal player must be made while the player in question is in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field.
 - **NOTE:** (A-B) An umpire cannot reverse a decision after a pitch, legal or illegal.
- Ineligible player can be made any time. Eligibility is the decision of the protest committee.
- **Section 3.** Protests may only involve the interpretation of a rule.
- **Section 4.** The manager, acting manager or captain of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper. To aid in the correct determination of the issue, all interested parties shall take notice of the information, details and conditions surrounding the decision to protest.
- **Section 5.** Protest of eligibility can be made or appealed at any time. Eligibility protests can not be waived by the Local Association.

RULE 9 - PROTESTS

Section 6. The written protest should contain the following information:

- A. The date, time and place of the game.
- B. The names of the umpires and scorers.
- C. The rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is made.
- D. The information, details and conditions relevant to the decision to protest.
- E. All essential facts concerning the matter protested.

Section 7. The decision rendered on a protested game must result in one of the followina:

- A. The protest is considered to be invalid and the game score stands as played.
- B. When a protest is determined to be valid because of the misinterpretation of a playing rule, the decision will be corrected and the game shall be replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made. If the protesting team wins the game the protest then becomes meaningless.
- C. When a protest for ineligibility is determined to be valid, the offending team shall forfeit the game being played or the game last played to the offended team.

RULE 10 - UMPIRES

Failure of umpires to adhere to Rule 10 shall not be grounds for protest. These are guidelines for umpires.

Section 1. POWER AND DUTIES.

The umpires are the representative of the league or organization by which they have been assigned to a particular game and, as such, are authorized and required to enforce each section of these rules. They have the power to order a player, coach, captain or manager to carry out or to omit any act which, in their judgment is necessary to give force and effect to one or all of these rules, and to <code>impose</code> penalties as herein prescribed, The plate umpire shall have the authority to make decisions on any situations not specifically covered in <code>these</code> rules. The following is the general information for umpires.

Section 2. CHANGE OF UMPIRES.

Teams may not request a change of umpires during a game

 No umpire may be replaced during a game unless incapacitated by injury or illness.

Section 3. UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT.

- A. There will be no appeal on any decision involving accuracy of judgment. No decision rendered by any umpire will be reversed except when the umpire is convinced it is in violation of one of these rules. In case the manager, acting manager or captain of either team does seek reversal of a decision based solely on a point of rules, the umpire whose decision is in question will, if in doubt, confer with the other umpire(s) before taking any action; but under no circumstances will any player or person, other than the manager, acting manager or captain of either team, have any right to protest any decision and seek its reversal on a claim that it is in conflict with these rules.
- B. Under no circumstances will any umpire seek to reverse a decision made by an associate, nor will any umpire criticize or interfere with the duties of their associate(s) unless asked to do so.
- C. The plate umpire may rectify any situation in which the reversal of an umpire's decision or a delayed call by an umpire places a batter-runner, a runner or the defensive team in jeopardy. This correction is not possible after one pitch legal or illegal or after the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area, or after the last play of the game, the umpires have left the field of play.

Section 4. SUSPENSION OF PLAY.

- Umpires may suspend play when, in their judgment, conditions justify such action.
- B. The plate umpire will call time when they leave the umpires position to brush the plate or to perform other duties not directly connected with the calling of plays.
- C. The umpire will suspend play whenever a batter or pitcher steps out of position for a legitimate reason.

RULE 10 - UMPIRES

- An umpire will suspend play if a fair batted ball hits the umpire prior to passing an infielder.
 - **EFFECT**: The batter-runner is awarded a base hit. No runners are advanced unless forced to advance.
- E. An umpire will not call time while any play is in progress, including when a thrown ball hits an umpire.
 - **EXCEPTION:** During a live ball situation, when a player becomes injured, and requires immediate attention, then umpire shall call time.
- F. An umpire will not call time if requested by the offensive team after the pitcher has started the delivery.
- G. During a live ball situation, when a player becomes injured, and in the umpire's judgment requires immediate attention, the umpire shall call "DEAD BALL". Award any bases that would have been reached.
- H. Umpires will not suspend play at the request of players, coaches or managers until all action in progress has been completed.
- (Slow Pitch) When, in the judgment of an umpire, all immediate play is apparently completed, the umpire should call time.

Failure of official scorer to adhere to Rule 11 shall not be grounds for protest. These are guidelines for the official scorer.

Section 1. THE OFFICIAL SCORER SHALL KEEP RECORDS OF EACH GAME AS OUTLINED IN THE FOLLOWING RULES.

The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving judgment in relation to scorekeeping. For example, it is the scorer's responsibility to determine whether a batter-runner's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error; however, a scorer shall not make a decision which conflicts with the official playing rules or with an umpire's decision.

Section 2. THE BOX SCORE.

- A. Each player's name and the position or positions played shall be listed in the order in which the player batted or would have batted had the player not been removed or had the game not ended before the player's turn at bat.
 - (Fast Pitch) The designated player (DP) is optional, but if one is used it
 must be made known prior to the start of the game and listed on the score
 sheet in the regular batting order. Ten names will be listed, with the 10th
 name being the FLEX player, playing defense for the DP. This 10th player
 may bat only if they move to the DP position in the batting order.
 - (Slow Pitch) The extra player (EP) is optional, but if one is used it must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the score sheet in the regular batting order. There will be 11 names for men's and women's slow pitch and 12 names for co-ed slow pitch on the official batting order and all will bat.
 - (ADA Slow Pitch) If the physically challenged player is playing defense only (FLEX), they will be listed last on the score sheet.
- B. Each player's batting and fielding record must be tabulated.
 - The first column will show the number of times at bat by each player, but a time at bat will not be charged against the player when:
 - a. The player hits a sacrifice fly that scores a runner.
 - b. The player is awarded a base on balls.
 - c. (Fast Pitch) The player hits a sacrifice bunt.
 - d. (Fast Pitch) The player is hit by a pitched ball.
 - e. (Fast Pitch) The player hits a sacrifice slap hit.
 - **NOTE:** A slap hit is defined as a fake bunt followed by a controlled swing and resulting in the runner(s) advancing, as in the case of a sacrifice bunt.
 - f. The third out occurs and the batter is not entitled to run to first base EXCEPTION: Third strike foul rule in slow pitch.
 - 2. The second column will show the number of runs scored by each player.
 - The third column will show the number of base hits made by each player.A base hit is a batted ball that permits the batter to reach base safely:
 - On a fair ball which settles on the ground, clears the fence or strikes the fence before being touched by a fielder.

- b. On a fair ball which is hit with such force or such slowness or which takes such an unnatural bounce that it is impossible to field with ordinary effort in time to make an out.
- c. When a fair ball which has not been touched by a fielder becomes dead because of touching the person or clothing of the umpire.
- d. When a fielder unsuccessfully attempts to retire a preceding runner and in the scorer's judgment, the batter-runner would not have been retired at first base by perfect fielding.
- 4. The fourth column will show the number of opponents put out by each player.
 - a. A put out is credited to a fielder each time they:
 - 1. Catch a fly ball or line drive.
 - 2. Catch a thrown ball that retires a batter-runner or runner.
 - 3. Touch a runner with the ball when the runner is off the base to which the runner is entitled
 - Is nearest the ball when a runner is declared out for being struck by a fair batted ball or for interference with a fielder, or when a runner is called out for being in violation of Rule 8, Sections 8E, J, S or T.
 - Is the nearest fielder to an unreported substitute who is declared out in accordance with Rule 4, Section 6B OFFENSE 1(b).
 - b. A put out is credited to the catcher:
 - 1. When a third strike is called.
 - 2. (Slow Pitch) When the batter bunts or chops the ball.
 - 3. When the batter fails to bat in correct order.
 - 4. When the batter interferes with the catcher.
 - 5. (Slow Pitch) When the batter hits a third strike foul ball.
 - (Slow Pitch) When a batter hits a home run in excess of the limit.
- The fifth column shall show the number of assists made by each player.
 An assist shall be credited:
 - a. To each player who handles the ball in any series of plays which results in the put out of a runner or batter-runner. One assist only shall be given to any player who handles the ball on any put out. The player who makes the put out in a rundown or similar type play shall be credited with both an assist and a put out.
 - b. To each player who handles or throws the ball in such a manner that a put out would have resulted except for an error of a teammate.
 - c. To each player who, by deflecting a batted ball, aids in a put out.
 - d. To each player who handles the ball on a play which results in a runner or batter-runner being called out for interference or for running out of the base path.
- 6. The sixth column will show the number of errors made by each player. Errors are recorded:
 - For each player who commits a misplay which prolongs the turn at bat of the batter or extends the existence runner.

- b. For the fielder who fails to touch a base after receiving a thrown ball to retire a runner on a force out, or when a runner is compelled to return to a base, and provided the thrown ball could be caught by the fielder with ordinary effort.
- For the catcher if a batter is awarded first base because of catcher obstruction
- For the fielder who fails to complete a double play because of a dropped ball.
- e. For a fielder if a runner advances a base because of that fielder's failure to catch, stop or try to stop a ball accurately thrown to a base, provided there was occasion for the throw. When more than one player could receive the throw, the scorer must determine which player should receive the error.

Section 3. A BASE HIT shall not be scored:

- A. When a runner is forced out on a batted ball or would have been forced out except for a fielding error.
- When a player fielding a batted ball retires a preceding runner with ordinary effort.
- C. When a fielder fails in an attempt to retire a preceding runner and, in the scorer's judgment, the batter-runner could have been retired at first base.
- D. When a batter reaches first base safely as a result of a preceding runner being called out for interfering with a batted or thrown ball, or with a defensive player.

Section 4. A RUN BATTED IN is a run scored because of:

- A A safe hit
- B. A sacrifice bunt (Fast Pitch), a sacrifice slap hit (Fast Pitch) or a sacrifice fly (Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch).
- C. An infield put out or fielder's choice.
- D. A runner forced home because of obstruction, a hit batter or a base on balls.
- A home run and all runs scored as a result.
- F. Subject to the provisions of Rule 11, Section 4G, when the batter ends a game with a safe hit which drives in as many runs as are necessary to put a team in the lead, the batter shall be credited with only as many bases on the hit as are advanced by the runner who scores the winning run, and then only if the batter runs out the hit for as many bases as are advanced by the runner who scores the winning run.
- G. When the batter ends a game with a home run hit out of the playing field, all runners on base are entitled to score.

Section 5. A PITCHER SHALL BE CREDITED WITH A WIN.

- A. When a starting pitcher has pitched at least four innings and the pitcher's team is not only in the lead when the pitcher is replaced but remains in the lead for the remainder of the game.
- B. When a starting pitcher has pitched at least three innings and the pitcher's team scores more runs than the opposing team in a game that is terminated after

five innings of play, or in a game that is terminated after the pitcher's team has scored more runs in four or more innings than the opposing team has scored in five or more innings and provided that the pitcher's team is not only in the lead if the pitcher is replaced after three innings of pitching but remains in the lead for the remainder of the game.

- Section 6. A PITCHER WILL BE CREDITED WITH A LOSS. Regardless of the number of innings the pitcher has pitched, a pitcher shall be charged with a loss if replaced when the pitcher's team is behind in the score and fails to tie the score or gain the lead thereafter.
- Section 7. THE SUMMARY shall list the following items in this order:
 - A. The score by innings and the final score.
 - B. The runs batted in and by whom.
 - C. Two-base hits and by whom.
 - D. Three-base hits and by whom.
 - E. Home runs and by whom.
 - F. Sacrifice flies and by whom.
 - G. Double plays and players participating in them.
 - H. Triple plays and players participating in them.
 - I. Number of bases on balls charged to each pitcher.
 - J. Number of strike outs by each pitcher.
 - K. Number of hits and runs allowed by each pitcher.
 - L. The name of the winning pitcher.
 - M. The name of the losing pitcher.
 - N. The time of the game.
 - O. The names of the umpires and scorers.
 - P. (Fast Pitch Only) Stolen bases and by whom. This includes a batter advancing to second base on an awarded base on balls.
 - Q. (Fast Pitch Only) Sacrifice bunts and by whom.
 - R. (Fast Pitch Only) The names of batters hit by a pitched ball and the names of the pitchers who hit them.
 - S. (Fast Pitch Only) The number of wild pitches charged to each pitcher.
 - T. (Fast Pitch Only) The number of passed balls charged to each catcher.
- **Section 8. STOLEN BASE.** (Fast Pitch) A stolen base is credited to a runner whenever they advance one base unaided by a hit, put out, force out, fielder's choice, passed ball, wild pitch, an error, illegal pitch or obstruction.
- **Section 9. FORFEITED GAME.** All records of a forfeited game will be included in the official records except that of a pitcher's won-lost record.
- Section 10. TIE BREAKER RULE. In scoring, the run scored by the player starting as a runner at second base shall be charged to the defensive team and not the pitcher. Depending on the judgment of the official scorekeeper, a run scored by any other player will be charged to the pitcher's ERA.

RULE 12 - USE OF ASA PLAYING RULES

The ASA Softball Playing Rules shall only apply to ASA Championship Play. Provided, however, in accordance with Article 520(B) of the ASA Code, ASA Local Associations as well as other organizations may adopt or use all or any part of the ASA Softball Playing Rules as they deem appropriate for use in Non-Championship Play. The use of all or any part of such rules is strictly a local matter and such rules may be altered as league officials deem appropriate or necessary to conduct Non-Championship Play.

1. APPEALS

A. Types.

- Missing a base, forward or backward, or touching the white portion only of the double base when a play is being made on the batterrunner at first base
 - **EXCEPTION**: A play from foul territory, or an errant or missed throw pulling the defensive player into foul territory.
- 2. Leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched.
- Attempting to advance to second base after making a turn at first base
- 4. Batting out of order.
- B. Live. In all games an appeal may be made during a live ball by any fielder in possession of the ball touching the base missed or left too soon on a caught fly ball, or by tagging the runner committing the violation if they are still on the playing field.
- C. **Dead.** The dead ball appeal may be made:
 - 1. Once all runners have completed their advancement and time has been called. Runners must be given ample opportunity, in the umpire's judgment, to complete their base running responsibilities. Any infielder, with or without the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball. The pitcher and the catcher are considered infielders for the appeal process. The appropriate umpire should then make a decision on the play.
 - When a ball goes out of play, runners must be given the opportunity to complete their base running responsibilities before the dead ball appeal can be made.
- D. May Not Return. A runner may not return to touch a base missed or one left too soon on a caught fly ball if:
 - 1. They have left the field of play.
 - 2. A following runner has scored.
 - Once a runner advances to and passes the next base awarded.

NOTE: A "dead ball" should be called and runners given the opportunity to complete their base running responsibilities. Returning to touch a base missed or one left too soon must occur prior to an award; therefore, on an overthrow the umpire should hesitate in making the award while watching what the runner does. If the runner shows no intention of returning to touch a base missed or re-tag a base left too soon, then the umpire should make the award. Once the umpire awards bases, and if a runner reaches the first base of the award, and then for any reason retreats to a previous base missed or left too soon, this is an illegal act. The defense may appeal and the umpire should rule the runner out.

- E. When. Appeals must be made:
 - 1. Before the next pitch, legal or illegal.
 - 2. At the end of an inning, before the pitcher and all infielders have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area.
 - 3. On the last play of the game, an appeal can be made until the umpires leave the field of play.
- F. Advance. Runners may advance during a live ball appeal. If the ball is not dead in fast pitch, each runner may leave their base when:
 - The pitcher no longer has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle.
 - The pitcher makes a play on any runner; a fake throwing motion is considered a play. If time out is requested for an appeal, the umpire should grant time in fast pitch or slow pitch and runners may not advance until the next pitch.
- G. More Than One Appeal. More than one appeal play may be made, but guessing should not be allowed.

EXAMPLE: The runner misses second base by a step, but just touches the corner of third base. Even though an appeal is made at third base and the umpire called the runner safe, an appeal may be made at second base on the same runner.

- H. Awards. An appeal should be honored even if the base missed was before or after an award.
- I. Plate and Tag Missed. If a runner misses home plate and the catcher misses the tag, the umpire should hesitate. If no tag is made, the umpire should call the runner safe. If an appeal play is made by tagging the runner or home plate, the umpire should then render a decision.
- J. Force Out. When an appeal is the third out and a force out, no runs shall score. The force is reinstated when a forced runner retreats toward the base first occupied and they may be put out if the defense tags the runner or the base to which they are forced. When the batter-runner is put out prior to reaching first base, all force outs are eliminated. On an appeal play, the force out is determined when the appeal is made, not when the infraction occurred.
- K. Tag-Ups. When a runner leaves a base too soon on a caught fly ball and returns in an attempt to retouch, this is considered a time play and not a force out. When the appeal is the third out, all runs scored in advance of the appealed runner and prior to the legal appeal count.
- L. Missing First Base Before the Throw Arrives. When a runner passes first base before the throw arrives, they are considered to have touched the base unless properly appealed. On appeals involving the double base, when the batter-runner touches the white rather than the colored portion and a play is made, the same procedure applies. When an appeal is made in both situations, it must be made prior to the runner returning to first base while the ball is live.

EXCEPTION: If a play is being made from first base foul territory, or an errant or missed throw pulls the defensive player into foul territory, the

- runner may touch the white or colored portion of the base. This is not considered missing the base.
- M. Fourth-Out Appeal. An appeal may be made after the third out of an inning as long as it is made properly. The appeal must be made on a runner who has scored but missed a base or left a base too soon. EXAMPLE: One out with runners on first and third base. The batter hits a fly ball that is caught. Both runners leave their base before the caught ball is touched. An appeal is made at first base for the third out. The defense then makes an appeal at third base before all infielders leave the infield. The runner on third base should be called out, and the run does not count.
- N. End of Game. When a situation arises that could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play of the game, umpires should wait until all infielders have crossed the foul line on their way to the dugout before leaving the infield. If teams line up for "high-fives" there is little chance for an appeal even if the infielders have not crossed the foul line. Umpires should leave the field at this time. No appeal can be made once the umpires leave the field.

2. BALL ROTATION PROCEDURE.

Many local associations now use the same ball rotation procedure that is used in championship play. The procedure is as follows:

- A. The pitcher has a choice of which ball to use at the start of each half inning. However, if both balls do not get into play in the first half of the first inning, the pitcher in the bottom half of the first inning MUST throw the unused ball. No choice is offered.
- B. The current game ball should be used until it goes out of play or becomes unplayable. When the ball goes out of play, the umpire should put another ball in play. The pitcher now MUST pitch with that ball unless the ball is deemed unplayable by the umpire.
- C. If the pitcher requests another ball because it is unplayable, give them another ball and remove the unplayable ball from the game. Do NOT give the pitcher a choice of balls when nothing is wrong with the ball.
- D. After an inning is completed, the ball should be returned to the vicinity of the pitcher's plate by the team leaving the field. The pitcher taking the field now has a ball with which to start the next half inning. The pitcher may request another ball from the plate umpire, and the umpire should give them another ball after receiving the ball from the pitcher. The pitcher has now made their choice and must pitch that ball.

BAT WITH DENTS.

In determining whether or not a bat with a dent(s) is legal, an umpire should use a bat ring to slide over the barrel of the bat. Should the bat ring slide over the entire barrel, the bat is legal.

4. BATTING WITH AN ILLEGAL BAT:

When a batter uses an illegal or altered bat and reaches base safely, and the next batter steps into the batter's box with the same bat, the following penalty is in effect:

- A. If noticed before a pitch is thrown to the next batter, the umpire should call out the batter who used the bat and is now on base.
- B. If the bat is altered, the player is ejected from the game and the tournament. The bat is removed from the game, runners put out prior to discovering this infraction remain out, and runners not put out return to the base they occupied at the time of the batted ball.
- C. After a pitch to the current batter, that batter is called out and there is no penalty to the previous batter for using the illegal or altered bat.

BATTER REMAINS IN BATTER'S BOX. (Junior Olympic Fast and Slow Pitch and Adult Modified Pitch Only)

This rule is not intended to penalize the player, but is used to speed up the game. The batter can still get a signal with one foot in the box and take practice swings.

If the batter leaves the box illegally, a warning should be given. Any number of warnings on the same batter may be given. A strike should not be called without a warning. One, two or three strikes may be called on the same batter under this ruling.

6. BATTING ORDER IS OFFICIAL.

The batting order is considered official when it is reviewed by the manager and the plate umpire at the pre-game meeting. Once the manager approves the line-up and returns it to the umpire, any changes thereafter are considered a substitution.

7. BATTING OUT OF THE BATTER'S BOX.

To call a batter out for batting out of the batter's box, one foot or both feet must be on the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box when contact is made with the ball. The lines of the batter's box are considered inside the batter's box

A batter should be called out immediately for hitting a pitched ball while out of the batter's box, or for re-entering the batter's box and making contact with the ball. The ball is dead, and the batter is out whether the ball is fair or foul. When there are no batter's box lines, good judgment should be used and the benefit of doubt should go to the batter. If contact is not made with the ball, there is no penalty.

8. CATCHER'S BOX.

The catcher's box is described in Rule 2, Section 3 D.

(Slow Pitch) The catcher may not have any part of their body or equipment touching the ground outside the lines of the catcher's box until the ball is batted, touches the ground or plate, hits the batter, or reaches the catcher's box. It is an illegal pitch if the catcher touches the ground outside the lines of

the catcher's box. The catcher, even when within the catcher's box, may still obstruct the batter.

(Fast Pitch) Catchers must remain in the catcher's box until the pitch is released. The catcher may move closer to the plate without penalty when the batter is positioned in the front portion of the batter's box during a pitch. However, the catcher must, at all times, still avoid catcher's obstruction as the batter has the right to the entire batter's box.

Obstruction does not require contact between the catcher and the bat or the batter. The umpire's request for the catcher to move farther away from the batter to avoid injury or obstruction should be obeyed. (See catcher obstruction under RS #36.)

9. CHARGED CONFERENCES.

- A. **Defensive**. A defensive charged conference occurs when the defense requests a suspension of play for any reason, and a representative enters the playing field to communicate with any defensive player. Should a defensive player approach the dugout and receive instructions, this is considered a defensive conference. The umpire should advise a team representative when a defensive conference has been charged. A TEAM IS ALLOWED THREE CONFERENCES PER SEVEN INNINGS. They may use all three conferences in one inning or spread them out over a seven inning game. Once the three conferences have been used, the pitcher must be removed for each additional charged conference. In extra inning on the second conference in an extra inning of a game, the pitcher must be removed. If the pitcher returns to the pitching position after being removed and one pitch is thrown, the pitcher is disqualified.
- B. Offensive. An offensive charged conference occurs when the offensive team requests a suspension of play and is granted time by an umpire to permit a team representative to confer with a batter, a runner(s), or another team representative. Only one such conference is allowed per inning. The umpires should refuse to grant the second conference. EFFECT: If the offensive team insists on holding a second conference in an inning after being informed by the umpire that it is not permitted, the umpire should eject the team representative from the game. It is not an offensive conference when a team representative confers with a batter and / or runner(s) during a defensive charged conference as long as they are ready to play when the defense is ready, or when the pitcher is putting on a warm-up jacket.
- C. Umpires. A conference should not be charged to either team when time-out is called by the umpire for a legitimate reason. FOR EXAMPLE: An injured player, blood rule, scorekeeper problems, field maintenance repairs, etc. A coach may confer with a pitcher, batter, or a runner during an umpire's time-out without penalty, as long as they are ready to continue once the problem is resolved.

10. CHECK SWING / BUNT STRIKE.

Normally, there are four areas which constitute whether or not a batter swung at the pitched ball or checked their swing.

- A. Did the batter roll their wrists?
- B. Did the batter swing through the ball and bring back the bat, unless the batter draws the bat back before the pitch arrives?
- C. Was the bat out in front of the body?
- D. Did the batter make an attempt to hit the pitch?

On a bunt attempt where the batter puts the bat across the plate and the pitched ball is out of the strike zone, a ball should be called unless the batter moves the bat toward the ball.

In each of the above situations, the umpire should think in terms of priorities. First, was the pitch in the strike zone? If so, it is simply a strike. Second, did the batter swing at the pitched ball, or, in the case of a bunt attempt, did the batter move the bat toward the pitched ball? In either case, it is the plate umpire's call. If in doubt, or if blocked out, the umpire should call the pitch a ball. If the umpire calls the pitch a ball and the catcher requests the umpire to go for help, the plate umpire should ONLY ask for help if there is doubt in their mind as to whether or not the batter swung at the pitched ball. On a missed bunt attempt with two strikes, the dropped third strike rule applies. (Rule 8, Section 1 B)

11. COMMUNICATION DEVICES.

Communication devices are not allowed on the playing field or in the dugouts. Head phones and ear phones have been used by coaches to communicate from one coaches' box to the other, to communicate between coaches and the dugout, and from the stands to the dugout. Signs and signals have been stolen while outside the field of play, stands or the outfield area and communicated to coaches or players. Therefore, umpires must prohibit any use of such equipment. Electronic scorebooks, however, are not considered a communication device and are legal for use by base coaches.

12. COURTESY RUNNER

The "courtesy runner" is a part of the Junior Olympic Girls and Boys Fast Pitch and Master and Senior Fast and Slow Pitch divisions of play.

- A. In J.O. play, only players who have not been used in the game can be used as a "courtesy runner", but only for the pitcher and catcher.
- B. In Master and Seniors Fast Pitch, "courtesy runners" may be ANY player on the line-up card and may be used once per inning, but only for the pitcher and catcher.
- C. In Masters Men and Women's Slow Pitch "courtesy runners" may be ANY player on the line-up card and may be used once per inning.
- D. In Senior Men and Women's Slow Pitch, unlimited "courtesy runners" may be used and can be ANY player on the line-up card.

A "courtesy runner" not reported is disqualified when brought to the umpire's attention by the offended team. See Rule 8, Sections 9 and 10 for other quidelines to follow.

13. CRASHING INTO A FIELDER WITH THE BALL. (INTERFERENCE)

In an effort to prevent injury and protect a defensive player attempting to make a play on a runner, a runner must be called out when they remain on their feet and crash into a defensive player who is holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. To prevent the out ruling, the runner may slide, jump over the defender holding the ball, go around the defender or return to the previous base touched. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender is ejected. A runner may slide into the fielder.

- A. When a runner is called out for crashing into a fielder holding the ball, the ball becomes dead. Each runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the crash as this constitutes interference
- B. When, as in A above, the runner crashes into a fielder holding the ball before being put out and, in the judgment of the umpire, it was an attempt to break up an obvious double play, the immediate succeeding runner is also called out. Rule 8, Section 7 J.
- C. When a crash occurs after the runner is called out, the runner closest to home plate is also out. Rule 8, Section 7 P.
- D. When an obstructed runner crashes into a fielder holding the ball, the obstruction is ignored and the runner is out. (Rule 8, Section 7 Q) This type of award, Rule 8, Section 5 B (2 and 3), does not give the runner the right to violate Rule 8, Section 7 Q.
- E. When a runner runs outside the three-foot lane to avoid a crash with a defender holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag, the runner should be called out.
- F. When a defensive player is fielding a thrown ball and the flight of the ball carries or draws them into the path of the base runner, it is not a crash.
- G. When the ball, runner and the defensive player arrive at the same time and place, and contact is made, the umpire should not invoke the crash rule, interference, or obstruction. This is merely incidental contact, or what some persons commonly call, "a wreck."

NOTE: If the ball does not enter dead ball territory in either E or F, the ball remains live.

14. DELAYED DEAD BALL.

There are five situations in which a violation of a rule occurs, the umpire recognizes the violation, but the ball remains live until the conclusion of play. These situations are:

- A. An illegal pitch. (Rule 6, Section 1-8 Fast Pitch and Modified Pitch) (Rule
 6, Section 1-7 Slow Pitch and 16-Inch Slow Pitch)
- B. Catcher's obstruction. (Rule 8, Section 1 D)
- C. Plate umpire interference. (Rule 8, Section 6 F)
- D. Obstruction. (Rule 8. Section 5 B)

E. Batted or thrown ball contacts detached equipment. (Rule 8, Section 5 F) In each situation, once the play is completed, the proper enforcement should be made.

15. DESIGNATED PLAYER OR DP (Fast Pitch).

The designated player may be listed in any of the nine batting positions in the batting order. The player listed tenth in the batting order plays defense for the DP, but may also play offense for the DP, and is called the FLEX.

- A. A designated player (DP) may be used for any defensive player provided it is made known to the plate umpire prior to the start of the game. The DP must be indicated on the line-up card as one of the nine hitters in the batting order.
- B. The name of the player for whom the DP is batting, FLEX, must be placed in the tenth position in the batting order.
- C. The DP and any substitutes for the DP must remain in the same position in the batting order throughout the game. The FLEX and all substitutes for the FLEX must enter the game in the tenth position in the line-up card.
- D. The DP may be substituted for at any time by a pinch hitter or pinch runner. The substitute becomes the DP and has all the options of the DP position. The starting DP and a substitute for the DP may not be in the game at the same time.
- E. The FLEX may be substituted for at any time. The substitute becomes the FLEX and has all the options of the FLEX position. The starting FLEX and a substitute for the FLEX may not be in the game at the same time.
- F. The starting DP and their substitute may be replaced by the FLEX as a hitter or as a runner. This reduces the number of players in the game from ten to nine. The DP and the FLEX may not be on offense at the same time.
- G. The FLEX may be replaced on defense by the DP. This reduces the number of players in the game from ten to nine. The DP and the FLEX may be on defense at the same time.
- H. The starting DP may re-enter the game one time, but only in the original DP position in the batting order. If the DP re-enters and the FLEX is batting in the DP position, the FLEX must:
 - Return to the number ten position in the line-up and play defense only. This is not considered to have left the game. Or,
 - Leave the game.
- I. The starting FLEX may re-enter the game one time and must:
 - 1. Return to the original FLEX position, tenth in the line-up card, or
 - Take the place of the starting DP in the batting order. If the FLEX
 re-enters and the DP is playing defense in the FLEX position, the
 DP must continue to bat in the DP position in the batting order, play
 offense only or play defense for another player. This is not considered
 to have left the game.

- J. The DP may play defense for any player and at any position. Should the DP play defense for a player other than the FLEX, that position player continues to bat and does not play defense. That player is not considered to have left the game.
- K. The role of the DP / FLEX is never terminated. A team may go from ten to nine players and back to ten players any number of times during the game. The game may end with ten or nine players.
- L. If the DP replaces the FLEX, or the FLEX replaces the DP, the change must be reported to the umpire. If not reported, the change is treated the same as an unreported substitute.

16. DUGOUT CONDUCT.

This rule reflects on all game participants. Once the game begins, only players involved in the game may be outside the dugout, except when the rule allows or the reason is justified by an umpire. A manager walking on the field for a conference is an example of a rule allowing a coach or player on the field. An example of umpire justification is when a game participant must leave the dugout to go to the restroom. Except for the on-deck batter, players may not be out of the dugout between innings standing near the batter's box observing the pitcher warming up, nor should game participants be allowed to step outside the dugout to have a smoke or to observe the game from behind the backstop.

17. EQUIPMENT ON THE PLAYING FIELD.

Loose equipment, miscellaneous items or a detached part of a player's uniform, other than that being legally used in the game at the time, should not be within live ball territory. Official equipment which may be in live ball territory with no penalty includes the batter's bat, the catcher's mask, umpire paraphernalia, a helmet which has inadvertently fallen off an offensive or defensive player during play or any equipment belonging to a person assigned to the game. Loose equipment, miscellaneous items or detached uniform parts which are in live ball territory and are not being legally used in the game at the time could cause a blocked ball or interference.

A Thrown Ball

- When a thrown ball hits loose equipment belonging to the team at bat, the ball is dead immediately. If such action interferes with a play, interference should be ruled. The runner being played on at the time of the interference is called out, and each runner must return to the last base touched prior to the interference. If a play is not apparent, a blocked ball should be ruled, no one is called out, and all runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the dead ball.
- 2. When the loose equipment belongs to the team in the field, it becomes a blocked ball and the overthrow rule applies.

B Batted Ball

- 1. A batted foul ball touching loose equipment is a foul ball.
- 2. A batted fair ball touching loose equipment belonging to:

- The offense, it is a dead ball and runners return, unless they are forced to advance when the batter-runner is awarded first base on a base hit, or
- b. The defense, it is a dead ball and all runners, including the batter-runner, are awarded two bases from their position at the time of the pitch.

18. EXTRA PLAYER OR EP (Slow Pitch).

If a team uses the EP, it must be indicated on the line-up card at the start of the game. The team must end the game with 11 players or play using the shorthanded rule.

All 11 players bat, but only ten play defense. Defensive changes may be made at any time; however, the batting order may not change. EXAMPLE: The EP may sit on the bench one inning, play third base one inning, play the outfield one inning, sit on the bench again and then play first base. All these defensive changes are legal as long as the EP remains in the same position in the batting order. This applies to all of the starting 11 players.

Any of the 11 starting players may leave the game once and re-enter. A starting player and their substitute may not be in the game at the same time. If this occurs, the player listed in the wrong position in the batting order is disqualified.

19. FAKE TAG.

A fake tag occurs when a fielder without the ball deceives the runner by impeding their progress; for example, causing a runner to slide, slow down or stop running.

- 1. Obstruction is called when a fake tag is made as mentioned above. The umpire should signal delayed dead ball and let the play continue to its completion. The obstructed runner, and each runner affected by the obstruction, should always be awarded the base or bases they would have reached had the obstruction not occurred. Again, each runner is awarded only the base or bases that in the judgment of the umpire they would have reached had there not been obstruction.
- The umpire should rule obstruction on all fake tags. Continued fake tags should result in ejections. In flagrant cases where the sliding player gets hurt, the offending player should be ejected without warning.
- 3. When a fielder fakes a tag but the runner continues on to the next base without sliding or breaking stride, there is no rule violation since the runner's progress was not impeded. However, a warning should be given.

20. FALLING OVER THE FENCE ON A CATCH.

The fence is an extension of the playing field, which makes it legal for a player to climb the fence and make the catch. When a player catches a ball in the air and their momentum carries them through or over the fence, the catch is legal, the batter-runner is out, the ball is dead, and with fewer than two outs all runners are advanced one base without liability to be put out. Guidelines

are as follows:

- When a player catches the ball before they touch the ground outside the playing area, the catch is legal, or
- When a player catches the ball after they touch the ground outside the playing area, it is not a catch. When a collapsible, portable fence is used and a defensive player is standing on the fence when the catch is made, it is a legal catch. A defensive player may climb a fence to make a legal catch; therefore a defensive player should also be able to stand on a fence that has fallen or is falling to the ground. As long as the defensive player has not stepped outside the playing area, the other side of fence, the catch is legal.

21. FORCE OUT.

A force out can be made by tagging a runner who is forced to advance to a base as the result of the batter becoming a batter-runner, or by touching the base to which they are being forced. It is not possible to have a force out on a caught fly ball as the batter-runner is no longer a runner. On an appeal play, the force out is determined at the time the appeal is made, not when the infraction occurred

22. FOUL BALL / FOUL TIP

The reference of the "height of the batter's head" as it relates to a Foul Ball and Foul Tip no longer applies. This change, instituted in 2006, allows more opportunity for the catcher to obtain "outs" by catching foul batted balls the same as the first and third base person who is playing closer to home plate. Umpires only need to judge whether the ball moves from the bat "sharply" and "directly" versus a ball that has a perceptible arc and / or if the catcher moves their glove / mitt to catch the ball after contact with the bat.

The definition of a foul ball has not changed. However, a foul tip is now defined as a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's glove / mitt or hand and is legally caught by the catcher. It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and the ball remains live in Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch with stealing. It is not a catch if the ball rebounds off the catcher, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove / mitt or hand. Again, a foul tip can only be caught by the catcher. Examples of foul ball and foul tip follow:

- A. A foul ball with "perceptible" arc goes toward the catcher's left and the catcher moves their glove / mitt to catch the ball. In this situation, the batter is out and the ball remains live just as it would when any other fielder catches a foul fly ball.
- B. The foul ball rebounds from the bat with a "perceptible arc" shoulder high and the catcher moves upward with the glove / mitt to make the catch. In this situation, the batter is out and the ball remains live just as it would when any other fielder catches a foul fly ball.
- C. The pitcher throws a rise ball and the catcher is moving up as the

pitch is on the way to home plate. The batter squares to bunt the ball above their head and the ball goes in a straight line from the bat to the glove / mitt and the catcher catches the ball. In this situation, it is a foul tip. It does not matter that the ball is above the batter's head. The only thing that matters when determining whether it is a foul tip is the fact that the ball goes directly from the bat to the catcher's glove / mitt or hand and then is caught by the catcher.

Umpires must be alert to the fact that runners need to tag-up on a batted foul ball that is caught. This increases the opportunity for more "outs", not only with the catcher catching the ball but the opportunity for more appeal plays with a runner leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball. Remember, the runner must wait until "first touch" before breaking contact with a base on a caught fly ball, fair or foul. Runners may leave when the pitch is released in Fast Pitch and when the pitch reaches the front edge of home plate in Slow Pitch with stealing, if the ball is judged to be a foul tip.

23. GLOVE / MITT (Using an illegal glove / mitt).

A. If discovered or brought to the umpire's attention, it should be corrected immediately. If a player refuses to correct the use of an illegal glove / mitt, they may not play.

24. HITTING THE BALL A SECOND TIME.

When considering the act of a batter hitting the pitched ball a second time, umpires should place the act into one of three categories.

- A. If the bat is in the hands of the batter when the ball comes in contact with bat, and the batter is in the batter's box, it is a foul ball. If, when the bat contacts the ball a batter's entire foot is completely outside the batter's box, the batter is out. When in doubt, don't guess the batter out. Call a foul ball.
- B. If the bat is out of the batter's hands, dropped or thrown, and it hits the ball a second time in fair territory, the ball is dead and the batter-runner is out. However, if the BALL hits the bat on the ground, the batter is not out and the umpire must then determine whether the ball is fair or foul based on the fair / foul rule. If the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory, the ball remains live. If the ball stops or is touched in fair territory, it is a fair ball. If the ball touches the bat in fair territory and then rolls to foul ground and stops, it is a foul ball. If the ball rolls against the bat in foul territory, it is a foul ball.
- C. If a batter swings at and misses the pitched ball but:
 - 1. Accidentally hits it on the follow-through, or
 - 2. Intentionally hits it on the second swing, or
 - 3. Hits the ball after it bounces off the catcher or mitt / glove.

The ball is dead, and all runners must return to the base they occupied prior to the pitch. (FP and 16" SP) In (2) and (3), if the act is inten-

tional with runners on base, the batter is called out for interference. If this occurs on strike three in fast pitch, Rule 8, Section 2F has precedence.

25. HOME RUNS (SLOW PITCH) AND RUNNING BASES.

This rule applies only to games involving Women's Open, Coed Major, and Men's Class "A" Slow Pitch divisions. It does not apply to Masters or Senior Slow Pitch Play. When an over-the-fence home run is hit, the batter and all base runners may go directly to the dugout. Appeals for runners missing a base are not allowed. This speeds up the game as batters and runners do not have to run the bases.

26. HOME RUNS / FOUR BASE AWARDS / GROUND RULE DOUBLES.

When a ball does not hit the ground and leaves the playing field in fair territory, it is a home run. In Slow Pitch, any fair fly ball touched by a defensive player on either side of the fence that clears or has cleared the fence in fair territory, should be declared a four-base award and shall not be included in the total of over-the-fence home runs.

- A. A batted ball hitting a foul pole above the fence is a home run.
- B. A batted ball hitting the top of the fence and bouncing over in fair territory is a home run.
- C. A batted ball going over the fence in fair territory at a distance shorter than the recommended minimum distance is a two base award.
- D. A batted ball hitting a defensive player in fair territory, but going over the fence in foul territory is a two base award.
- E. A batted ball that leaves the park in fair territory and first touches the ground in foul territory is a home run.

27. IMAGINARY LINE OR DEAD BALL AREA.

When a fielder carries a live ball into a dead ball area, the ball becomes dead and a base or bases are awarded to all runners. If the act is unintentional, the award is one base. If the act is intentional, the award is two bases. The base award is governed from the last base legally touched at the time the ball became dead.

When a chalk line is used to determine an out-of-play area, the line is in play. If a fielder is touching the line, the fielder is in the field of play and may make a legal catch or throw. If a foot is on the ground completely in dead ball territory, not touching the line, the ball becomes dead and a play may not be made.

When a player has one foot inside the line or touching the line, and another foot in the air at the time the catch is made, the catch is legal and the batter is out. If the fielder then steps into a dead ball area, foot on the ground, the ball becomes dead and all runners are awarded one base from the last base touched when the ball became dead.

Defensive players cannot take advantage and intentionally throw or step into a dead ball area in order to prevent a runner who has missed a base or left a base too soon from returning to the base. If it is ruled that the defensive

player intentionally threw the ball or stepped into the dead ball area, allow the runner to return to the base.

28. INFIELDER

An infielder, pitcher, or catcher for purposes of an appeal play or the infield fly rule is any player who defends the area of the field around first, second, third or shortstop areas. This also assists in placing fielders in the COED slow pitch game, which requires four players in the outfield and four in the infield.

29. INJURED PLAYER

During any live ball, when a player becomes injured and, in the umpire's judgment, requires immediate attention, the umpire should call time and allow first aid treatment. If runners are on base when time out is called, those runners should be awarded the bases that the umpire judges they would have reached if time out not been called

30. INTENTIONALLY DROPPED BALL.

The ball cannot be intentionally dropped unless the fielder has actually caught it, and then drops it. Merely guiding the ball to the ground is not an intentionally dropped ball.

31. INTENTIONAL WALK (Fast Pitch).

The ball is live during an intentional walk in fast pitch. All defensive players must be in fair territory until the pitch is released, except the catcher who must remain in the catcher's box and the pitcher who must be in a legal pitching position at the start of each pitch. If the defensive players do not position themselves in fair territory, an illegal pitch should be called each time a pitch is made while a member of the defense is standing in foul territory. All four pitches must be thrown to the catcher.

32. INTENTIONAL WALK (Slow Pitch).

An intentional walk is permissible and occurs during a dead ball. A pitch is not required and the intentional walk starts by the defensive team notifying the plate umpire of their intent. The umpire should call time out and award the batter first base without liability to be put out. A possible appeal on a previous play is nullified. When two successive batters are walked intentionally, the second walk may not be administered until the first batter reaches first base.

33. INTERFERENCE.

Interference is the act of an offensive player or team member that impedes, hinders or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play. Interference may be in the form of physical contact, verbal distraction, visual distraction, or any type of distraction that hinders a fielder in the execution of a play. Defensive players must be given the opportunity to field the ball anywhere on the playing field or throw the ball without being hindered.

A. Runner interference includes:

- A runner or batter-runner who interferes with a fielder executing a
 play, including the batter-runner touching the white portion of the
 double base at first base and colliding with the fielder trying to catch
 a thrown ball from a fielder.
 - a) When a runner interferes with a fielder, the umpire must determine if the interference occurred before or after the runner who interfered was put out and then apply the appropriate rule.
 - b) When a runner is hit by a fair batted ball, it is interference if it occurred before the ball passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher, and provided the runner was not in contact with the base. It is interference if the batted ball deflects off one defensive player and the runner interferes with any defensive player who has an opportunity to make an out.
 - c) A runner could be standing on a base and a defensive player bumps the runner while watching the flight of the ball. If the defensive player fails to make a catch on a ball that could have been caught, it is the umpire's judgment whether or not interference should be called. The rule provides that a runner must vacate any space needed by a fielder to make a play on a batted ball, unless the runner has contact with a legally occupied base when the hindrance occurs. In this case, the runner should not be called out unless the hindrance is intentional.
 - d) If interference occurs by the runner on a foul fly ball not caught but, in the umpire's judgment, could have been caught with ordinary effort had interference not occurred, the runner is out and the batter is also out. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the foul fly ball could have not be caught with ordinary effort, a strike is called, the ball is dead, and the batter remains at bat. (Slow Pitch) If on the third strike, the batter is out.
 - e) For crash interference, refer to RS #14.
- A runner or batter-runner who is hit by a fair touched or untouched batted ball. or
- 3. Interfering with a thrown ball.
- B. Batter interference occurs while the batter is at bat and before the ball is batted. It occurs in fast pitch when the batter interferes with the catcher's throw on an attempted steal or when the batter interferes with the catcher on a play at the plate. The batter's box is not a sanctuary for the batter when a play is being made at the plate. Interference could also occur when a batter releases the bat in a manner that it hits the catcher and prevents them from making a play. If the batter merely drops the bat and the catcher trips over it, there is no interference. Batter interference is also described in RS #24B.
- C. <u>Offensive players</u> in the dugout may be charged with interference if they interfere with a fielders' opportunity to make an out on a fly ball.

- D. <u>On-deck batters</u> may be charged with interference if they interfere with a throw, a possible tag on a runner, or a fielder's opportunity to make an out on a fly ball.
- E. <u>Coach's interference</u> occurs when a base coach runs toward home and draws a throw or when they interfere with a fielder attempting to catch or throw a ball. The coach's box is not a sanctuary.
- F. Spectator interference occurs when a spectator:
 - Enters the field and interferes with a play.
 - **EFFECT**: The batter and runner(s) should be placed at the bases that they would have reached had spectator interference not occurred. The field belongs to the fielder and the stands belong to the spectator. Or
 - 2. Reaches onto the field from the stands and prevents a fielder from catching a fly ball in the field of play.

EFFECT: A dead ball is ruled and the batter is out. All runners should be placed at the bases they would have reached had the interference not occurred. It is not interference if the fielder reaches into the stands.

G. Umpire interference occurs:

- When an umpire is hit by a fair, untouched batted ball before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher. The batter-runner is awarded first base. This is an exception to the statement that someone must be called out on interference.
- (Fast Pitch & Slow Pitch with Stealing) When an umpire interferes
 with a catcher's attempt to put out a runner stealing, or an attempted
 pick-off from the catcher to any base. It is interference only if the
 runner is not put out; in which case runners are returned to the base
 they occupied at the time of the pitch. Umpire may not be called in
 any other case.

When batter, batter-runner, runner, on-deck batter or coach interference occurs, the ball is dead, someone must be called out, and each other runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

- H. Offensive team interference occurs when a thrown ball strikes loose equipment left in live ball territory; but only when play is actually affected (RS #18).
- Batter-Runner interference occurs when the batter-runner steps back while running to first base to avoid a tag by a defensive player, or when running to first base, runs outside the three foot lane over fair or foul territory and interferes with a thrown ball to first base.

34. LOOK-BACK RULE (Fast Pitch) (Rule 8 Section 7 T).

When a runner is legitimately off base after a pitch, or as a result of a batter completing their turn at bat, and is stationary when the pitcher has the ball in the circle, the runner MUST immediately attempt to advance to the next base or immediately return to the base left.

The responsibility is entirely on the runner. There is no obligation on the

pitcher to look, fake or throw.

- A. The "look back" rule does not go into effect for any runner until the batter-runner touches first base or is called out, and the pitcher has control of the ball within the eight foot radius circle.
- B. Failure to immediately proceed to the next base or return to their original base after the pitcher has the ball within the circle results in the runner being called out.
- C. Once the runner returns or stops at any base for any reason, the runner is out if they leave that base.

EXCEPTION B-C: A runner will not be declared out when:

- 1. A play is made on another runner, or
- 2. The pitcher leaves the circle or drops the ball, or
- 3. The pitcher releases the ball to the batter, or
- 4. The pitcher places the ball under their arm or between their legs to free both hands to fix their uniform, hair, etc. The ball is not controlled unless it is held in the glove or hand. Once the pitcher controls the ball again in the glove or hand, the "Look Back" rule is again in effect.
- D. If multiple runners are off base and more than one umpire calls a runner out, the umpires must determine which runner was called out first and return the other runner(s) to the base they left. When a runner is declared out in this situation, the ball is dead. It is impossible to call two outs on the "look back" rule.
- E. A pitcher fielding a ball in the circle is an infielder and runners can leave their base. If runners leave their base, the same rule applies while the pitcher holds the ball in the circle: once the runner stops, they must decide which way to continue or be called out.
- F. A base on balls or a dropped third strike is treated as a batted ball if the batter-runner continues past first base without stopping or stops only once and then immediately moves one way or the other. However, if the runner stops at first base and then steps off the base after the pitcher has the ball in the circle, the runner is out.
- G. Batter-runners overrunning first base can not start back to the base, and before reaching first advance to second base. If a batter-runner commits to first base, moving toward first base, the runner must return to that base. The batter-runner may not change their mind and advance to second base once they have started moving directly to first base following the overrun. If they do so, the runner is out. Umpire's judgment determines what is committing toward a base.
- H. If a runner is moving toward a base, other than first base, when the pitcher receives the ball in the circle, that runner may stop once then immediately advance to the next base or return to the previous base. A runner failing to advance to the next base or return to the previous base should be called out. Making an attempt or fake justifies the runner being called out. If, after the pitcher has the ball in the circle, the runner starts back to their original base or forward to another base and then stops or reverses

direction, the runner is out unless the pitcher makes a play on them or another runner. When a play is made on any runner, other runners may also stop or reverse their direction.

- A runner is out when standing off the base and they do not immediately attempt to advance or return after the pitcher has the ball in the circle.
- J. While in the circle and in possession of the ball, any act by the pitcher that, in the umpire's judgment, causes the runner to react is considered making a play.
- K. The pitcher must have control of the ball while in the circle. Placing the ball on the ground, holding the ball between their legs or under their arm is not considered having control of the ball.
- L. Being in the eight-foot circle is defined as both feet within or partially within the lines. The pitcher is not considered in the circle if either foot is completely outside the lines.

35. MEDIA COVERAGE.

Media authorized by the tournament committee can be on the playing field. All media personnel must be able to move to avoid being hit by an errant throw or by a batted ball. Should the media accidentally be hit, the ball remains live. All photographic equipment must be carried or on the photographer. No equipment can be left on the ground, including tripods. Should an errant throw or batted ball become lodged in the photographer's equipment, the overthrow or out of play rule applies.

36. OBSTRUCTION.

Obstruction is the act of a fielder:

- A. Not in possession of the ball. or
- B. Not in the act of fielding a batted ball,

which impedes the progress of a batter-runner or runner who is legally running the bases.

If a defensive player is blocking the base or base path without the ball, they are impeding the progress of the runner and this is obstruction. In past years, coaches taught their players to block the base, catch the ball and make the tag. Now defensive players must catch the ball, block the base and then make the tag.

Whenever obstruction occurs, whether or not a play is being made on a runner, the umpire should declare obstruction and signal a delayed dead ball. The ball remains live. If the obstructed runner is put out prior to reaching the base they would have reached had obstruction not occurred, a dead ball is called and the obstructed runner, and all other runners affected by the obstruction, shall be awarded the base(s) they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, had obstruction not occurred. An obstructed runner may be called out between the two bases the runner was obstructed if the runner is properly appealed for missing a base or leaving a base before a fly ball is first touched. If the runner committed an act of interference after the obstruction or passed another runner, this

also would overrule the obstruction.

When an obstructed runner is awarded a base that they would have reached had obstruction not occurred and a preceding runner is on that base, the obstructed runner shall be awarded that base and the runner occupying it is entitled to the next base without liability to be put out.

When an obstructed runner safely obtains the base they would have been awarded, in the umpire's judgment, had obstruction not occurred and there is a subsequent play on a different runner, the obstructed runner is no longer protected between the two bases where they were obstructed. That runner may now be put out anywhere on the base paths.

It should also be clear that the statement "a runner cannot be called out between the two bases the runner was obstructed" does not apply when the runner committed another violation and that violation is being played upon. EXAMPLE: A runner leaving second base too soon on a fly ball is returning after the ball is caught and is obstructed between second base and third base. If the runner would not have made it back to second base prior to the throw arriving, the runner remains out.

Should the obstructed runner be put out after passing the base they would have reached had obstruction not occurred, the runner is advancing at their own risk and, if tagged, should be called out. The ball remains live and other plays may be made.

When the runner is obstructed during a rundown, a delayed dead ball is declared and signaled. If the runner is tagged out after being obstructed, a dead ball is called and the runner is awarded the base they would have made had obstruction not occurred. Should the ball be overthrown after the obstruction, the runner may advance. The runner may not be called out between the two bases where they were obstructed.

Catcher obstruction is a delayed dead ball call. Should catcher obstruction be called when the batter hits the ball, but the batter-runner reaches first base safely and all other runners advance at least one base, the obstruction is canceled. All action as a result of the batted ball stands. Should the batter not reach first base, or if one of the other runners does not advance at least one base, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or taking the award. The award is, place the batter at first base and runners are advanced ONLY if forced because of the award to the batter.

Should catcher obstruction occur when a batter steps out of the batter's box on a legitimate attempt to hit the ball, the obstruction takes precedence and the penalty for catcher obstruction is enforced.

NOTE: The batter must be given the opportunity to hit the ball. Should the batter delay their swing, and clearly the attempt is no longer to hit the ball but rather to interfere with the catcher's throw on a steal attempt, interference should be called on the batter. (Also see RS #8 - Catcher's Box)

(Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch with stealing allowed) Should a catcher reach forward, over or in front of home plate, in an attempt to catch the pitched ball, catcher's obstruction may be ruled.

37. OVER-RUNNING FIRST BASE.

After over-running first base, the batter-runner may legally turn to their left or right when returning to the base. If any attempt is made to advance to second base, regardless of whether the runner is in fair or foul territory, they are liable for an appeal out if tagged with the ball by a defensive player while off the base. Overrunning first base on the look back rule is covered under RS # 34.

When using the double base, the batter-runner may use the white portion any time a play is not being made at first base. If a play is made at first base, but the ball is overthrown or the fielder is pulled off the base by an errant or missed throw, the batter runner is now allowed to use the white portion of the base. Should the batter-runner overrun first base and return to either portion of the base before an appeal, an appeal is not allowed.

38. OVERTHROWS.

Runners are always awarded two bases on balls that are overthrown or become blocked as a result of hitting loose equipment that belongs to the defensive team and should not be on the field (RS #18). Regardless of who made the throw, two bases are awarded from the last base touched at the time the thrown ball was released.

The runner's direction of movement has no effect on the award. When an overthrow is made on a runner returning to a base, the runner is awarded two bases from that base.

EXCEPTION: When the runner is returning to first base and the throw is from the outfield, it leaves the outfielder's hand while the runner is between 2B and 3B, but the runner is between 1B and 2B when the ball goes out of play, the runner is awarded home plate.

When two runners are between the same bases at the time of the award, the award is determined by the position of the front runner. Two runners between first base and second base will be awarded second base and third base; however, if two runners are between second base and third base, both will be awarded home plate. Should the umpire err in the award of bases, after one pitch, legal or illegal, the umpire may not change the award.

When a fielder loses possession of the ball on an attempted tag and the ball then enters dead ball territory or becomes blocked, all runners are awarded one base from the base last touched at the time the ball entered dead ball territory, or became blocked.

(Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch with Stealing) On pitched balls that go out of play, runners are awarded one base from the last base touched at the time of the pitch. Should a batter receive a base on balls and the fourth ball gets away from the catcher and goes out of play, the award is first base only.

39. PASSING A RUNNER.

Passing a runner may occur while runners are advancing or returning to a base. Normally it occurs when a lead runner stops to see if a ball will be caught and the trail runner, also watching the ball, does not see the lead runner stopped. The trail runner, the runner doing the passing, is called out and the

ball remains live. To pass a runner, the trail runner must pass the entire body of the lead runner, not just an arm or leg ahead of the trail runner.

40. PITCHING (Fast Pitch).

There are six basic features in the pitching rule. These are:

- A. Contact with the Pitcher's Plate. The pitcher must have both feet on the ground within the 24-inch length of the plate. The shoulders shall be in line with first and third base.
 - The male pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and the non-pivot foot on or behind the pitcher's plate. The female pitcher shall take a position with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.
- B. Signal. A pitcher must take a signal or simulate taking a signal from the catcher while in contact with the pitcher's plate as described in (A) above. The ball must be held in the hand or the glove / mitt while taking the signal. The ball held in one hand may be in front of or behind the body. Taking or simulating taking a signal prevents the pitcher from walking onto the pitcher's plate and putting the batter at a disadvantage by throwing a quick pitch. The actual signal may be taken from the catcher, the dugout or any other location.
- C. Preliminary to Delivery. MALE pitchers shall have one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. FEMALE pitchers must keep both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate during the entire preliminary process. After taking or simulating taking the signal, bringing the hands together and keeping them together a minimum of one second and not more than 10 seconds; the pitcher may begin their pitching motion. FEMALE, during this entire period the pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate. MALE, if the pitcher wants to step back with the non-pivot foot they may do so prior to separating the hands. No rocking movement which pulls the pivot foot off the pitcher's plate is allowed. If the pivot foot turns or slides in order to push off the pitcher's plate, it is acceptable as long as contact is maintained. It is not considered a step when the pitcher slides their foot across the pitcher's plate.
- D. Start of Pitch. The pitch starts when the pitcher takes one hand off the ball after bringing the hands together.
- E. Delivery. The delivery may not be two full revolutions. The pitcher's hand may go past the hip twice as long as two full revolutions are not completed. The wrist may not be any farther from the hip than the elbow. The delivery may not have a stop or reversal of the forward motion, and must be made on the throwing arm side of the body. The pitch may not be delivered behind the back or between the legs.
- F. Step or Release. A step, only one, must be taken and it must be forward, toward the batter and within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate; however, beginning in 2007 MALE ADULT pitchers no longer are required to step forward within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. Dragging or pushing off with the pivot foot from the pitcher's plate is required. Pushing

off from a spot other than the pitcher's plate is considered a crow hop and is illegal. The ADULT MALE may push off with the pivot foot and drag the foot in the dirt, or may be airborne with both feet as long as the pivot foot toe is pointing downward toward the ground. Should the pivot foot toe not be pointed downward, an illegal pitch should be called. The release of the ball must be simultaneous with the step.

Much attention and discussion has been given to recognizing the differences between the crow hop and the leap on the pitching delivery:

- 1. A <u>CROW HOP</u> is defined as a replant of the pivot foot prior to delivering the pitch. This can be done by (1) sliding the foot in front, but not in contact with, the pitcher's plate; (2) lifting the pivot foot and stepping forward; or (3) jumping forward from the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot prior to starting the pitch. Umpires should look at the location of the pivot foot when the hands separate, the start of the pitch. If the pivot foot is off and in front of the pitcher's plate before the hands separate, this would be a crow hop and an illegal pitch should be called.
- 2. A <u>LEAP</u> occurs when both of the pitcher's feet become airborne on the initial move as the pitcher pushes from the pitcher's plate. In the WOMEN'S and YOUTH Fast Pitch divisions the pivot foot must stay in contact with the ground following the push off from the pitcher's plate. ADULT MALE pitchers are allowed to have both feet airborne as long as the pivot foot toe is pointed downward toward the ground. If the pivot foot toe is not pointed downward, an illegal pitch should be called. ADULT MALE pitchers can also legally push and drag the pivot foot on the ground during the step.
- G. Pitcher returning to pitch. A pitcher returning to pitch in the same half inning shall not receive warm-up pitches. There is no limit as to the number of times a player can return to the pitching position as long as the player has not left the batting order, or has not been removed from the pitcher's position by rule.

41. PITCHER'S UNIFORM.

A pitcher should be dressed identically to the other players on the team. A long-sleeve sweatshirt of any color is acceptable under the jersey. If worn, the sweatshirt sleeves may not extend past the wrist so a clear gap can be seen between the ball and the end of the shirt. If two or more players, including the pitcher, wear sweatshirts, they must be identical in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit sleeves on an exposed undershirt.

A pitcher may wear a batting glove and / or wristband on the glove hand and wrist. The batting glove may not be the color of the ball being used in the game. A pitcher may wear the pitcher's toe plate on their shoe.

In Fast Pitch, the pitching rule allows a pitcher to wear a band-aid on the finger, or an arm wrap on the arm, as long as the umpire feels neither is distracting to the batter. If a band-aid on the finger or a wrap on the arm is flesh

colored, they should be allowed, even if a sweatshirt is not worn. If a design or writing is on the wrap, and the umpire feels it is distracting, the pitcher should be asked to remove the wrap. The pitcher's glove / mitt may be of one solid color or multi-colored as long as the glove / mitt does not contain colors that are the same as the color of the ball being used in the game.

In Slow Pitch, a pitcher may wear a wristband on the pitching arm, may have tape on the pitching fingers and wear any color fielder's glove. A batting glove may not be worn on the pitching hand.

42. PROTESTED GAME UPHELD AND RESCHEDULED.

When the protest of a game is upheld, the game shall to be rescheduled from the point at which it was protested. Although the same line-ups must be used when the game is resumed, there is no penalty for substitutions legally placed into the line-ups. Even if a player was not at the protested game, they are legal for substitution purposes when the game is rescheduled as long as they are on the roster at the time of the rescheduled game. If a player was ejected or disqualified in the original game after the protest was filed, that player may legally play in the rescheduled game because they were legally in the game at the time of the protest, unless the ejection also drew suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct.

43. RUN SCORING ON THE THIRD OUT OF AN INNING.

A run can not score when the third out of an inning is a putout of the batterrunner at first base, or at another base if a preceding runner is forced because of the batter becoming a batter-runner.

Bases missed could result in a force out. FOR EXAMPLE, should the runner from first base miss second base on a base hit and, when properly appealed, that is the third out of the inning, any runs scored do not count. Remember, on an appeal play the force out is determined when the appeal is made, not when the infraction occurred.

An appeal play on a runner leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball is a time play, not a force. When the appeal results in the third out of an inning, any run scored prior the appeal counts..

44. RUNNER HIT BY A FAIR BATTED BALL.

A. While in Contact With the Base. A runner who is hit by a fair batted ball while in contact with the base should not be called out unless the act is intentional. The ball remains live, or becomes immediately dead, depending on the closest defensive player. When the closest defensive player is in front of the base that the runner is in contact with, the ball remains live. However, when the closest defensive player is behind the base, the ball is dead. Should the ball be ruled dead and the batter awarded a base hit, only runners forced to advance because the batter was placed on first base shall advance one base.

B. While Not in Contact With the Base. A runner who is hit by a fair batted ball while not in contact with a base should be called out or ruled safe, depending on the interference rule. (Rule 8, Section 7 J & K or Rule 8, Section 8 D-F)

45. RUNNERS SWITCHING POSITIONS ON THE BASE PATH.

Following a "Time Out", should two or more base runners change positions on the base they originally held, the runners involved shall be called out and the manager of the offending team ejected.

46. SHOES.

Metal cleats are legal in Adult Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch. They are not legal in Adult COED Slow Pitch, seniors, or any level of Youth Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch. Polyurethane or plastic cleats shaped to look like a metal triangle, toe or heel plate are illegal in youth, seniors, and COED play. If there are nubbins or round plastic cleats in addition to the triangle plate, the shoe is legal. Cleats that screw onto a post are illegal, but cleats that screw into the shoe are legal.

47. SHORTHANDED TEAMS (STARTING THE GAME).

All divisions of play may begin the game one player short, that is Slow Pitch and COED may start with nine players and Fast Pitch may begin with eight players. When a team plays one short, an out must be recorded in the last position in the batting order. In COED, the out is in the 9th or tenth position, depending on which sex is missing from the alternate batting order. If a player arrives after the game begins, that player must be placed in the last position in the batting order. If the player brings the team to a full batting order, and a player leaves for any reason other than an ejection or disqualification, it is permissible to return to one less and continue play shorthanded.

In Slow Pitch, should a team begin the game with nine players, they are not allowed to use the "shorthanded rule" and play with eight.

In Fast Pitch, should a team begin the game with eight players, they are not allowed to use the "shorthanded rule" and play with seven.

SHORTHANDED TEAMS (CONTINUING AFTER STARTING WITH FULL TEAM).

After beginning the game with a full team, a team may continue a game with one player less than it uses to begin a game as long as the player vacancy is not created by an ejection. This rule is designed to avoid forfeits whenever possible. In all divisions of play, when a team starts with the required number of players, and a player leaves the game for any reason other than an ejection, the following guidelines apply:

- A. When a team is short one player due to a player being disqualified, the game continues using the shorthanded rule. If the team is already playing shorthanded and the disqualification occurs, the game is forfeited.
- B. When a player leaving the game is a runner, the runner is called out even if the runner reached base safely.

- C. Each time the absent player is due to bat, an out is recorded. This is the same in COED play; therefore, two males or two females may not follow each other in the batting order without an out.
- D. When a team plays shorthanded because a player leaves the game, the player may not return to the line-up.
 - **EXCEPTION**: A player being treated under the blood rule may return. (Rule 4, Section 8)
- E. If there is an eligible substitute at the game, or if an eligible substitute arrives before the game is over, the substitute MUST enter the game. Refusal to do so makes the player ineligible for the remainder of the game.
- F. A team may not bat less than nine in Slow Pitch or eight in Fast Pitch. The game is forfeited.
 - Should a team have only ten players, one is injured in the third inning, a substitute arrives in the fifth inning and is entered in the game, and another player becomes injured, the team can continue play with nine players. If the same team does not have a substitute when the second person is injured, this reduces the number of players to eight and the game must be forfeited.
 - The purpose of this rule is to allow all players on a team to play without fear of injury or illness that previously created forfeitures. Playing shorthanded is not a strategic option for a coach.
- G. In Women's and Youth Fast Pitch, when a team playing shorthanded is involved in the tiebreaker and the shorthanded spot in the batting order is suppose to begin the half inning at second base, an out should not be called. Instead, place on second base the player who precedes the absent player in the line-up.

49. SPORTING BEHAVIOR

The values of softball competition are based on good sporting behavior and fair play. The following are examples, although not limited to, of unsporting behavior:

- Uniforms not worn properly, such as jerseys not tucked in, sleeves rolled under, and caps worn backwards.
- B. Exposed undergarments of different colors worn by different teammates on the same team.
- C. Coaching tactics that endanger the safety of players.
- D. After equipment check, illegal equipment being put back into play.
- E. Use of equipment for other than its intended design.

50. STEALING (Slow Pitch).

Base stealing is not legal in Youth and Women's C & D Slow Pitch, in COED play, Master's and Senior's play. Since the ball is dead on balls and strikes, the runner is not out and they are returned to the base held at the time of the pitch. Because a runner may not steal, the runner can not be picked off either. Runners should be called out when they fail to keep contact with a base to which they are entitled until a legally pitched ball is batted, touches the ground,

hits the batter, or reaches the front edge of home plate.

Base stealing is legal in Adult Men's Slow Pitch and Women's Open Slow Pitch. This does not apply to Men's Master and Senior's play. Stealing is permitted as long as the runner does not leave the base until the ball reaches the front edge of home plate. If the ball either hits the plate or touches the ground prior to reaching the front edge of home plate, the ball is dead and runners may not advance. The ball remains live until the pitcher has possession of the ball in the infield and the completion of all immediate play is apparent. The ball is also dead when the pitched ball hits the batter. The ball is live and runners may advance when:

- A. A play is made on a runner.
- B. The pitcher fails to catch the ball.
- C. The catcher hits the batter on a throw to the pitcher or to a base during a play. When a play is made on a runner, the ball is live and runners may advance

51. SUBSTITUTIONS.

All substitutions must be reported to the plate umpire who, in turn, will report the changes to the official scorer. All substitutes' names and numbers should be listed on the official line-up card that is submitted to the plate umpire at the start of the game; however, should a player not be listed on the card but is on the official roster, the player can be added after the game begins.

A substitute is considered in the game when reported to the plate umpire. An unreported substitute is considered in the game after a pitch, legal or illegal, has been thrown or a play has been made.

If a substitute has not reported and it is brought to the attention of the umpire, the player is disqualified. All action prior to the discovery is legal. Should the manager or player in violation inform the umpire prior to the offended team's protest, there is no violation. Should an unreported substitute bat and it is discovered prior to the next pitch, all runners are returned to their original base, any outs recorded stand, the unreported substitute is disqualified and called out. The re-entered player or legal reported substitute assumes the ball / strike count. If the unreported substitute is discovered on the last play of the game and before the umpires leave the field, runners are returned to their previous base and the unreported substitute is disqualified.

Any player may be substituted for or replaced, and re-enter once, providing players occupy the same batting position whenever in the line-up.

A game is forfeited for a substitution violation when a player removed by the umpire returns to the same game as this is use of an illegal player, or if the ejection or disqualification creates a situation where there are not enough players to continue the game.

52. THROWING OR CARRYING A BAT.

When a player throws the bat intentionally in anger, the player should be ejected. Should the bat slip from the batter's hands, there is no penalty unless

the discarded bat prevents the defense from making a play on the ball, and then interference should be ruled.

There is no penalty when a player carries a bat to first base or any other base. Should the player use the bat to prevent a defensive player from making a play, then interference should be ruled.

53. TIE GAMES OR GAMES CALLED WHICH ARE LESS THAN REGULATION.

When games that are called with less than the regulation innings completed or tied are rescheduled, the same procedure should be followed as stated in RS #42. PROTESTED GAME UPHELD AND RESCHEDULED.

In determining tie games after five innings have been played, regulation game, the home team must have had the opportunity to bat and tie the score. If the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team and the game is called in the bottom of the fifth or sixth inning, the home team shall be the winner. If the visiting team has scored more runs than the home team in the sixth or seventh inning and the home team has not had the opportunity to complete its turn at bat, the game reverts to the previous inning. If that score was tied, it is a tie game. If the score is not tied, a winner is declared if one team is ahead and five full innings have been played.

Should a game be called before five full innings are played, four and one-half if the home team is ahead, the game should be resumed at the point it was called.

TIE BREAKER RULE. (Women's, Girls' JO Fast Pitch and Men's Senior Slow Pitch).

During each half inning of the inning used to enforce the tiebreaker, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half inning being placed at second base. For Example, if the number five batter is to lead off, the number four batter in the batting order should be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.

It is the responsibility of the umpire and scorer to notify the teams involved as to which player starts the half inning at second base. Should the wrong player be placed on second base and it is brought to the umpire's attention, there is no penalty. Correct the error and place the correct person on the base. This should occur even if a pitch has been thrown, or the runner has advanced a base. An unreported substitute would be disqualified after a pitch has been thrown or a play has been made.

When a team playing shorthanded is involved in the tiebreaker and it is the shorthanded spot in the batting order that should start at second base, do not call an out. Instead place on second base the player who precedes the absent player in the line-up.

In scoring, the run scored by a player starting as a runner at second base shall be charged to the defensive team and not the pitcher. Depending on the judgment of the official scorer, a run scored by any other player should be charged to the pitcher's ERA.

When playing pool play in Junior Olympic "A" and "B" divisions and 18U Gold Fast Pitch, all Girl's Slow Pitch, and in all Girls 10-under pool and double elimination games, a time limit of one hour forty minutes will be in effect for each game. Should a game be tied at the conclusion of the time limit, the tiebreaker shall begin with the next full inning.

55. WHEEL CHAIR USE

Under the American Disability Act ruling of July 25, 1990, known as the ADA ruling, wheel chairs are allowed on the playing field. Players while batting, running bases or playing defense, coaches in coaching boxes and umpires behind the plate or on the bases may use wheel chairs. The ADA ruling for slow pitch is explained under Rule 4, Section 2.

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Outfield distance	2	1	O (4)	
Pitching distance	2	1		
Shoes	3	6	G	
Shorthanded	4	1	_	(d) (2) (c)
	4	1		
Starting game	3	-	D (2)	(6)
Uniforms	3 7	6 2	F	_e
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CONDITION OF FIELD	5	2		
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IVIASICI S & SCIIIUI SFP	0	9	A-C	

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DEFINITIONS	1		
DELAYED DEAD BALL (R/S # 14)	6 6 8 8 8	1-8 1-7 1 5 5	D F B F
DESIGNATED PLAYER (DP) (R/S # 15) FP Scoring	1 4 11	3 2	A-I A (1)
DETACHED EQUIPMENT	8	5	F
DIAMOND DIMENSIONS	2	1	
DELIBERATE CRASH (Runner) (R/S # 13)	8	7	Q
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Following a base	1 8 8 8	3 8 4	C N K
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Batter-runner touching white portion during				
play	8	2	M	
Errant or missed throw	8	2	M (5)	
DOUBLE PLAY	1			
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SP	6	9	D	
16"	6	9	В	
DROPPED THIRD STRIKEFP	8	1	В	
DUGOUT	1			
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EJECTION FROM GAME	5	4	G-I	
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ERROR	11	2	B (6)	(a-e)
EXTRA PLAYER (EP) (R/S # 18)	1			
SP	4	4	A-F	

ING RULES AND RULES SUPPLEMENT Section Article Rule Minimum number of players C (3) (b,f) 4 4 Penalty 4 5 Α 2 A (2) Scoring 11 Two (Senior SP) FAIR BALL.... 1 FAIR TERRITORY..... FAKE TAG (R/S # 19) FIELDER FITNESS OF GROUND 5 2 FLEX PLAYER (R/S #15)..... 3 A-I FLY BALL.... Carried into dead ball area..... 5 J-K FORCE OUT (R/S # 21) 7 G FOREIGN SUBSTANCE ON PITCHING HAND...... FP/MP 6 6SP/16" 6 5 FORFEITED GAME A-K 5 4 Records 11 9 Score of C 5 FOUL BALL 1 FOUL TIP 4 D FOUR BASE AWARDS...(R/S #26)..... 5 8 A(1-6) Note

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16"	6	3	D	
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Defensive	3	5	E	
Usage	3	5	Е	
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In the strike zone	7	6	A	
HOME PLATE				
Dimensions	2	3	G	
Second home plate (Senior SP)	2	3	G	
cocona nome plate (como or)	_	Ü	Ü	
HOME RUN (R/S #26)	8	5	Н	
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Section Article Rule INFIELDER R/S #28) IN FLIGHT..... 1 IN JEOPARDY INJURED PLAYER (R/S #29) 4 10 INJURED RUNNER 6 Е 4 10 Blood rule INNINGS..... Regulation games 5 3 New inning starts..... 5 10 INSULTING REMARKS TOWARD PLAYERS OR UMPIRES..... 7 C (3) INTENTIONALLY CARRIED/THROWN 5 Κ 8 **BALL (R/S #27)** INTENTIONALLY DROPPED FLY BALL (R/S # 30) 2 8 J INTENTIONAL WALK (R/S # 31 & 32)...... 1SP 8 C (3) INTERFERENCE (R/S #33) 7 F Aiding a runner 8 At home plate 8 6 F Ball hitting umpire..... 8 1 E (7) By base coach..... 8 7 M, O 7 3 By batter..... D By batter-runner 8 2 E-G 6 Р 7 1 By on-deck batter D By plate umpireFP/MP/SP 8 6 8 J. K. L. P. Q By runner..... 8 7 Crash by runner (R/S # 13) Offensive equipment on field 8 5 G (3) Runners return 8

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ING RULES AND RULES SUPPLEMENT INDEX Article Section Rule LEGAL DELIVERY OR PITCH FP/MP 3 A-J 6SP 3 A-M 6 A-J 6 3 LEGALLY CAUGHT BALL (CATCH) 1 LEGAL TAG LINE DRIVE 1 LINE-UP A (1) A-F LOOK BACK RULE (R/S # 34)...... FP/MP 8 7 т LOSS, CREDITED TO PITCHER..... 11 MASKS AND THROAT PROTECTORS 3 5 CatchersFP 3 5 С Note Face masks 3 F MAXIMUM/MINIMUM ARCSP 6 3 н16" 6 ח MEDIA COVERAGE (R/S # 35) MITTS..... 3 4 Illegal glove penalty..... 8 0 MODIFIED PITCHING RULES.....MP 1-11 6 3 BallMP 3 L Legal delivery MP 3 3 A-M 6 3 Major delivery MP F (1) J(1) F (2) J(2) 6 3 Class A delivery MP 10 Man delivery MP 6 3 F (3) J(2) MULTI-COLORED GLOVES.....FP 3

ING RULES AND RULES SUPPLEMENT Section Rule Article NO PITCH FP/MP 6 10 A-E A-ESP 6 9 9 A-C NUMBERS 3 6 D OBSTRUCTION (R/S # 36)..... 8 5 В Catcher obstruction 1 D 8 Catcher with batter on attempted squeeze play..... FP/MP 8 1 D (3,4) OFFENSIVE TEAM..... OFFENSIVE TEAM CONFERENCE (R/S #9) 5 7 Α OFFICIAL BALL - 10", 11", 12" & 16"...... OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER 11 1 ON-DECK BATTER 1 A-D ON-DECK CIRCLE Dimensions..... 3 2 В Violation..... OUTFIELD..... **OVERRUN FIRST BASE (R/S # 37).....** 7 T (3) OVERSLIDE..... Runner is out 8 7 В OVERTHROW (R/S # 38) 8 5 G Except. 1-4 From pitching plateFP 8 5 PASSED BALL

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PINE TAR	3	1	н
PITCH (FP AND MODIFIED PITCH) Delivered with catcher out of catcher's box Illegal No pitch declared Quick return pitch Returned by catcher Slips from pitcher's hand Warm-up pitches allowed	6 6 6 6 6	5 1-8 10 10 7 11 9 3	A Effect A-E B B
Wind up PITCH (SLOW PITCH) Delivered with catcher out of catcher's box. Height of pitch) Illegal No pitch declared Quick return pitch Returned by catcher Slips from pitcher's hand Warm-up pitches Wind up	6 6 6 6 6 6 6	4 3 1-7 9 7 6 9 8 3	A-O A H A-F B D
PITCH (16-INCH) Delivered with catcher out of catcher's box Height of pitch Illegal No pitch declared Quick return pitch Returned by catcher Slips from pitcher's hand Warm-up pitches Wind up	6 6 6 6 6 6 6	4 3 1-7 9 7 6 9 8 3	A D A-C B B
PITCH BEGINS (R/S # 40) FP/MP SP/16"	6 6	2 2	

ING RULES AND RULES SUPPLEMENT Section Article Rule PITCHER (FAST PITCH) Alloted time..... 6 3 M Batting glove on pitching hand 6 В 6 Credited with loss 11 6 Credited with win 11 5 A, B Defensive conference..... 1 5 7 В Deliberately dropped or rolled ball..... 6 3 ı 6 6 Substance on ball..... Illegal pitch penalty..... 6 1-8 Effect 7 5 C 6 3 A-L Legal delivery Playing runners back to base from 8 eight-foot circle C(1) & E(1) Position of feet...... Male) 6 1Female) 6 1 C(2) & E(2) 4 5 Re-enter Removal after conference with manager... 5 7 В Starting pitcher 1 6 Step during delivery..... 3 G Tape on finger..... 6 6 Uniform (R/S # 41) 3 6 Warm-up pitches allowed between innings 6 9 6 6 Wristbands..... В PITCHER (MODIFIED PITCH)..... Allotted time..... 6 3 M Batting glove on pitching hand 6 6 В Credited with loss 11 6 Credited with win 11 5 A. B Defensive conference..... 1 6 3 Deliberately dropped or rolled ball..... L 6 6 Foreign substance on ball 6 Illegal pitch penalty..... 1-8 **Effect** 7 5 С 6 3 A-M Legal delivery 6 3 F & J (1) Nine Player..... 6 3 F & J (2) Ten Player Playing runners back to base from eight-foot circle 8 Т С Position of feet..... 6 1 Re-enter 5

ING RULES AND RULES SUPPLEMENT INDEX Section Article Rule 5 Removal after conference with manager... 1 Starting pitcher Step during delivery..... 6 3 J 6 Tape on fingers..... 6 Uniform (R/S # 41) 3 6 6 9 Warm-up pitches allowed between innings Wristbands..... 6 В PITCHER (SLOW PITCH)..... Allotted time..... 6 3 J Batting glove on pitching hand 5 6 Credited with loss 11 6 5 Credited with win 11 A, B Defensive conference..... 1 Foreign substance on ball 6 5 6 1-7 Illegal pitch penalty..... Effect 7 5 C 6 3 A-K Legal delivery Position of feet..... 6 3 Ε Re-enter 4 5 5 Removal after conference with manager... В Starting pitcher 1 Tape on fingers..... 6 5 3 Uniforms (R/S # 41)..... 6 Warm-up pitches allowed between innings 6 8 Wristbands..... 6 PITCHER (16"SP) Allotted time..... 6 3 Н Batting glove on pitching hand 6 5 Credited with loss 11 6 Credited with win 11 5 A, B Defensive conference..... 1 Foreign substance on ball 6 5 6 Hesitation throws..... 3 G-H (1-4) Illegal pitch 6 1-7 Effect Legal delivery 6 3 A-J Penalty for illegal pitch 6 1-7 **Effect** 7 C 5 G (4C) Pick-off attempts..... 6 3

6

4

5

3

5

7

В

Position of feet.....

Re-enter

Removal after conference with manager...

ING RULES AND RULES SUPPLEMENT Section Article Rule Starting pitcher Tape on fingers..... 6 5 Uniform (R/S #41) 3 6 Warm-up pitches allowed between innings 6 8 Wristbands..... 5 PITCHER'S PLATE..... 2 3 E, G, J Contact at delivery..... 6 3 2 3 Eight-foot circle..... Pitcher throws while in contact with.....FP 6 8MP 6 816" 6 Ε PITCHER'S SIGNALS FP/MP 1 D 6 PITCHING DISTANCES..... 1 2 PITCHING POSITION FP/MP 6 1 A-E SP 6 1 A-D16" 6 A-F PIVOT FOOT..... PLAY BALL..... Fail to resume play in two minutes 4 D PLAY MADE BY UNANNOUNCED SUBSTITUTE..... C (7-9) 4 6 PLAYERS..... 4 1 A-D Disabled (ADA Rule)..... 4 2 4 1 C Minimum number to play 4 6 A. B Officially entering the game..... Positions..... 4 C(1-3)Short-handed rule.....

2

5

1-3

2

PLAYING FIELD

Fitness for play

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Assisted by anyone Award of bases on overthrow of ball out	8	7	Е	
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Bases touched in legal order	8	3		
Coach draws throw at home	8	7	M	
Comes into contact with fielder attempting				
to field ball	8	7	J	
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with the ball	8	7	Q	
Enters team area	8	7	U	
Entitled to advance with liability to be put				
out	8	4	A-L	
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Fails to keep contact with base until				
pitched ball reaches home plateSP	8	7	R	
Fails to keep contact with base until the				
ball leaves the pitcher's handFP	8	7	S	
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FP	8	7	Т	
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Homerun does not have to run (all				
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	7	3	D	

ING RULES AND RULES SUPPLEMENT Section Article Rule STRIKE A-L Ball hitting batter on third strike G. H Dropped third strike В STRIKE ZONEFPSP SUBSTITUTIONS (R/S # 51) Courtesy runner (J.O. Girls/Boys FP Only) 8 10 A-G Courtesy runner .. (Masters & Seniors FP) 8 A-B 9 Courtesy runner(Seniors SP) 8 9 B.C No substitute available 5 4 Н 4 6 Notify umpire Α 4 6 B Officially in game 4 5 Re-enter Unannounced 4 6 C SUBSTITUTE RUNNER..... Automatic out 1 D Injury to runner 6 F SUSPENSION OF PLAY..... 5 4 D 3 D A-I 10 8 TAPE ON PITCHING HAND FP/MP 6 6 5 TEAM 4 1 Delay or hasten game 5 4 Ε 5 1 Home team..... 5 4 B-D Refusing to play..... To continue playing..... 4 1 D(2) To start a game..... A,D (1) TEN-UNDER CLASS B RULES 8 G 3 G Ball Table Base on balls..... 8 G (4)

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	7	6	M	
SP	7	6	<u>L</u>	
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SP.	7	4	F (2)	
JO (10 – Under Class B)	8 8	4 1	G (3) B (2) Exception	
	0	'	B (2) Exception	
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C

C

A, B

2007 Mechanics Changes and Comments

Three-Umpire System FP and SP Two-Umpire System FP	With no runners on base, Base Umpires on the line shall "walk the line."
Comments:	The number of steps taken may vary from umpire to umpire. The purpose of returning to this mechanic is to have the umpire moving and ready to react when the ball is batted or a throw is made.
ALL	Expand the use of the terms that can be used beyond the "one word" mechanics.
Comments:	It is now acceptable to use a phrase in addition to the use of "one word" in verbalizing situations. For example, "did she go" is acceptable as well as "swing" when the plate umpire requests help from their partner on a check swing. This is true for all situations where previously only "one word" could be used.
Three-Umpire System FP and SP Two-Umpire System FP	The starting position for Base Umpires who are on the line is a minimum of 18 feet and a maximum of 21 feet behind the base.
Comments:	This change was made to eliminate confusion on the position a Base Umpire starts on the line. Originally, it was thought that with the use of the "ready to umpire" position 15 to 18 feet was the best starting position. Since the "walk the line" technique is now used, it is felt that 18 to 21 feet is the preferred starting point for Base Umpires on the line.
Slow Pitch with Stealing	When a pitched ball touches the ground before reaching home plate, touches home plate or strikes the batter, the Base Umpire should mirror the Plate Umpire's "dead ball" signal ONLY when necessary.
Comments:	This change is to clarify that when a runner is not advancing, the Base Umpire does not need to mirror the Plate Umpire's signal. The signal and verbal call of the Plate Umpire suffice.

Slow Pitch with Stealing Comments:	When a pitched ball touches the ground before reaching the home plate, touches home plate or strikes the batter, the proper sequence to use in calling the play is to signal "dead ball" and then indicate that the pitch is a ball or, if swung at and missed, give a strike signal. This mechanic clarifies the proper sequence of signals
	that must be given in slow pitch with stealing when a pitched ball touches the ground before reaching home plate, touches the plate or strikes the batter. In the rare case that a pitched ball is swung at and missed then it becomes dead by touching home plate etc., the dead ball signal is given by a strike signal. If the pitch is a ball the dead ball signal is given followed by a verbal "ball" call.
Slow Pitch, All	The Plate Umpire now goes to the set position when the pitcher first moves the ball after the required stop, that is, the when the pitch starts.
Comments:	This change eliminates a Plate Umpire moving while the pitch is in flight. Additionally, it is consistent with movement to the set position in all other games. Umpires should still be able to determine legality of the pitch and make the appropriate call from the set position.
Two-Umpire System Slow Pitch	The starting position for the Base Umpire in the Two- Umpire System in Slow Pitch with runners on base is on the second base side of the Second Baseman.
Comments:	This mechanic places the Base Umpire in a better position to make the majority of calls that occur in the Slow Pitch game. Some examples involve, going out on fly balls and coverage of the steal attempt at second base in Slow Pitch with Stealing. Also, with the depth that infielders play in Slow Pitch and the use of the fifth infielder, this allows the Base Umpire to start in position on a straight line between the Short Stop and the Second Baseman, or the fifth infielder and either the Short Stop or the Second Baseman.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RON RADIGONDA

The ASA Umpire Manual is one of the many publications that the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) produces on an annual basis to ensure its umpires are the best trained in the world.

We have made a committment to our umpire program and sincerely feel that we have one of the most outstanding officiating programs in the country. It's because the people who join the ASA umpire program strive to be the best. They accomplish this through their dedication and training and the time and effort they put into developing their umpiring skills.

We are certainly proud of the thousands of umpires who officiate our tournaments and games each summer. We realize that you are a very important piece of this softball puzzle.

In your preparations for the upcoming season, we encourage all ASA umpires to use this manual as well as the other umpiring publications offered by the ASA to better yourselves.

My best to all of you throughout the 2007 season. May this be your best season yet and it is my hope that you accomplish each goal you have set for the year.

Yours in softball.

Ron Radigonda Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UMPIRES CRAIG CRESS

My fellow ASA Umpires,

It is an honor and privilege to address each of you as the ASA Director of Membership Services. The ASA Umpire Manual, originally written by the best softball minds in the country, is used to help in developing more than 30,000 registered ASA umpires into the nation's best.

This past season the ASA National Umpire Staff worked diligently to make the ASA Umpire Manual even better. You will notice some changes to the Manual this season that includes a change to the Points of Emphasis. The 2007 Umpire Manual combines the rules with the Rules Supplement to help clarify the intent of the rules for all to understand better. This season there were also changes made to the mechanics and signals that will be the standard for the best umpires in the world.

These rules and mechanics are used by softball associations throughout the world to assist in the development of their umpires. At the international level, umpires are required to know and understand the same mechanics even though they may not understand the language of their partners on the field.

I strongly urge you to study every aspect of this book and use its information to help you become a better umpire. In addition, participating in a national umpire schools and your location association clinics will provide helpful tips and practice to further your skills. All of these tools will help you advance quickly in your umpiring career and possibly provide you with the opportunity to work at an ASA National Championship.

The National Umpire Staff and I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to improve the ASA umpiring program. I hope your umpiring experience this year will be enhanced and made more enjoyable by the information in the Umpire Manual.

If I or the National Umpire Staff can help you in any way, please let us know.

Best Regards,

Craig Cress

Director of Membership Services

2007 NATIONAL UMPIRE STAFF

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SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS

- **BUTTONHOOK:** The movement of a Base Umpire from outside the infield to a position inside the diamond. This is accomplished by planting the right foot and using a pivoting motion toward the runner.
- **CHECK SWING:** An intentional attempt by the batter to stop the completion of their swing.
- **DIAMOND:** The area of the infield inside the baseline
- **FLAT PITCH (SP):** A term used to describe a pitch that does not reach the required six foot minimum height.
- **FORTY FIVE DEGREE ANGLE:** The position at a base which the umpire should strive to gain prior to their movement to the final calling position.
- **GOOD PELVIC ALLIGNMENT (GPA):** The alignment of the Plate Umpire's pelvic with the outside front corner of home plate.
- **HEEL/TOE STANCE:** The position of the Plate Umpire's feet when the heel of the foot closest to the batter is in a straight line with the toe of the foot closest to the catcher.
- **HIGH PITCH (SP):** A term used to describe a pitch that exceeds the 12 foot maximum arc.
- **HOLDING ZONE:** An area outside the diamond, adjacent to the third base foul line, where the plate umpire should go to read a play in certain situations.
- **INSIDE/OUTSIDE THEORY:** The theory that governs the movement of the Base Umpire, as determined by a batted or thrown ball, inside or outside the infield.
- **NINETY DEGREE ANGLE:** The primary position of observation by an umpire for viewing the required four elements to make a call.
- **SECONDARY POSITION:** The movement away from the primary position to an area an umpire should attain to observe any subsequent play.
- **SLOT:** The position the Plate Umpire assumes behind the catcher slightly inside the inside corner of the plate and outside the perimeter of the strike zone prior to the set position.
- **TAG PLAY:** A situation in which a defensive player in possession of the ball touches a runner or batter-runner who is not in contact with a base.

TRACKING THE BALL: The act of watching the ball from the pitcher's hand into the catcher's glove/mitt using a slight movement of the head guided by the nose.

TRAILING THE BATTER- RUNNER: The movement of the Plate umpire toward first base near the line in fair territory to observe possible violations by the batter-runner, and to assist the Base Umpire with unusual situations.

WALKING THE LINE: The mechanic in which the Base Umpire(s) starts on the foul line and moves toward home plate as the pitch is delivered.

SECTION 2 PRE-REQUISITES FOR GOOD UMPIRING

Any umpire representing the Amateur Softball Association is performing a service to fellow umpires, to the leagues which we serve, to the managers, players and fans of softball. A competent umpire performs their duties with accepted signals and procedures. A thorough knowledge of the rules is important; but, more important is the understanding of their purpose, and the ability to interpret and enforce these principles.

Good game control begins with the umpire's appearance at the game site. Players and coaches alike base many of their actions during the contest on the amount of confidence they have in the umpire. The umpire who performs their duties in a brisk, businesslike manner upon arrival at the field, who is courteous with players and coaches (without being overly friendly) prior to the game, whose calls are made promptly and confidently and with an emphasis that dissuades argumentation, yet is not dictatorial, and who cooperates with partner's in the efficient coverage of all the game, is rarely questioned.

When you enter a ball park your sole duty is to umpire a ball game as the representative of the league. In all your actions and conduct, keep in mind that as an umpire, your position calls for the settling of controversies on the ball field and not in starting them elsewhere. Umpiring is a trying position that requires patience and good judgment. Remember always that the first essential in working out a bad situation is to keep your temper and self under control. Be firm and courteous and you will earn the respect of all. Friendship toward the umpire, appreciation for their duties and cooperation in their decisions rarely exists when a difficult situation occurs on the ball field. An umpire's only friend on the field is the other umpire.

An umpire should give any rule interpretation that a manager requests quickly and courteously; but refrain from general conversation and especially from discussion of plays and players. Umpires are to judge plays, not players.

To display an air of superiority because you are an umpire is unacceptable. Say "Hello" to the various people and make use of a friendly smile. Let it be said that you are a fine person and would be welcome in any gathering, for you are advertising yourself, your profession and above all, THE GAME of softball.

The proper handling of any softball game demands that each member of the umpire crew hustle at all times. In addition, the following three factors are essential to the success of any umpire:

- Judgment
- Mechanics and Techniques
- Knowledge of the rules

JUDGMENT is an inherent factor of umpiring. The calm style of a polished umpire when confronted by a spontaneous uprising bears out this assumption. However, the truth is that the umpire, through a trying apprenticeship, has become case-hardened to the degree that enables a good umpire to take a most disagreeable incident in stride. Early in the career, the average umpire will likely respond to rowdy tactics or abusive language with some show of fear, but the umpire who advances in the game learns that a tight rein must be kept on temperament. No provocation, not even physical attack, should cause an umpire to lose sight of their primary responsibility—keeping the game under control. An angry umpire is never a master of the situation. In short, umpiring judgment is mainly experience, salted with cool-headed common sense.

GOOD MECHANICS AND TECHNIQUE are factors appreciated in some degree by even the most difficult player. A lack of good mechanics is the one thing that separates the best of the amateur umpires and any professional. **MECHANICS** deal with the who, what, where and often the why, while **TECHNIQUE** also deals primarily with the "how" of umpiring. Technique deals with the amount of flair or individualism employed by the umpire in any given situation.

Hustle is an integral part of good umpiring mechanics and technique. Acceptance of any umpiring assignment requires the complete attention and energy of an umpire for the entire game. Hustle is the spirited application of the principles of good umpiring. Aimless running about is not hustle or at least is not productive hustle. Briefly, good mechanics and technique consists of being in the right place at the right time coupled with strict attention to detail.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PLAYING RULES is expected of every umpire. They should routinely devote ample time to reading and studying the rule book. There is no point in committing the rules to memory as their common sense application is the stamp of a master umpire.

An umpire should include the following ten prerequisites when striving to earn respect and confidence as a top rated umpire:

- 1. CONDITIONING & APPEARANCE: All umpires should be physically fit at the start of each season and then make certain that they keep themselves in good condition. An umpire who is not physically fit is a detriment to the game. Today's athletes are well conditioned, very skilled and they move with great speed. Umpires must be able to keep pace with the athletes and be able to move very quickly to get into the best position to cover a play. A pleasing personal appearance is invaluable to an umpire. Clothes should be clean and pressed. Shoes should be shined. A plate umpire should always have an indicator, plate brush, ball bag, pen or pencil and line up cards. A cap should be properly worn with the bill forward. Uniform and equipment do not make an umpire; however, you will be respected for looking the part.
- 2. JUDGMENT & TIMING: Decisions must be made positively and promptly, but

an umpire must not be too hasty in calling a play. Umpires must guard against rendering decisions prematurely. An umpire has to run to get into position on a play and yet come to a stop where all of the action can be seen clearly before making a ruling. Whenever possible do not make a 'fair/foul' decision while in motion. Go out on the foul line as far as the situation allows. Stop just prior to the ball being touched and indicate fair or foul before making the 'catch/no catch' ruling. When making a decision it is necessary to know the location of the ball. The fielder may drop the ball on a tag play in pivoting during a double play, or juggle the ball on a force play. After a momentary hesitation for the purpose of making certain the play is completed, the call should be made forcefully. A timid call by the umpire could be perceived in a negative manner, reflecting a lack of confidence. All plays should be called with an air of confidence as this goes a long way toward having the umpire's judgment accepted. Good umpires cultivate their voices to increase the authority implied by the spoken word. A strong voice, under control, is a valuable asset. All calls should be made loudly and clearly so that the players of both teams can hear them.

3. TEAM WORK & COMMUNICATION: Umpires working together must communicate and have mutual respect. The best rapport is obtained when there is a friendly attitude toward each other. Friendliness and respect for members of the crew (and profession) contribute to confidence in one another. Every umpire should strive to support their partner(s) throughout the entire contest. When one umpire requests an opinion from another concerning a given play which has been ruled upon, the opinion should be given honestly and courteously to the umpire requesting it. Do NOT offer an opinion unless requested by a partner. Unsolicited advice is never appreciated and will cultivate a lack of confidence in the umpire(s).

Umpires must make a conscientious effort not to infringe on the duties and responsibilities of each other. There is no cause for greater embarrassment than to have opposite decisions made by umpires on a given play. If proper mechanics are followed, there should be no conflicting decisions. Umpires must communicate by calling your partner off when drifting back into a base you are covering.

Do not discuss decisions with anyone but your partner and then only in private. Be in a position to help if requested. Your job is to see everything possible. If you alibi, you have not only lost the respect of your partner, but of the players as well.

4. RULE KNOWLEDGE: Good umpiring is dependent, to a large extent, upon a complete knowledge and understanding of the rules. To be a competent umpire, it is necessary to know the rules thoroughly. Some decisions are repeatedly made so that, with experience they come by reflex. The correct way to prepare yourself for effectively making decisions is through continued study of all possible situations. Then, basic fundamentals become second nature and correct interpretations are virtually automatic. Rule knowledge requires constant and analytical study. Reading the rules is not enough. Rules must be studied so that mental pictures of plays and situations result. Having developed clarity in the mental pictures, the umpire will then be able to immediately recognize the situation and correctly rule on it automatically. Umpires that guess and don't know the rules lose the confidence of players, coaches and spectators. Veteran and new umpires alike,

- should attend rules clinics whenever possible and learn how and when to apply the rules.
- 5. POSITIONING: Proper umpiring mechanics are essential in attaining the best coverage. Many umpires who know the rules well fail to be accepted because their mechanics are poor. Mechanics, or play coverage, must be mastered if the umpire is to be successful. First, a proper position for various situations must be learned, and then the coverage must be practiced. Position and coverage should be discussed and reviewed regularly at clinics with the opportunities to practice the mechanics being made available to all umpires, including both the veteran and the novice. It is important that all umpires get the best position possible for any given play without being in the way of any player or a thrown or batted ball.
- 6. <u>SELF CONTROL</u>: An umpire must totally ignore remarks from the spectators. Every crowd will include a number of people who heckle an umpire. Many persons believe that to do so is a legitimate part of a ball game. Fans lose respect for an umpire that reacts to criticism. An umpire's reaction to heckling causes increased criticism. Umpires must ignore any and all spectator comments.
- 7. SHOWMANSHIP: Good umpires can effectively execute their duties without "showboating". The umpire that discharges their responsibilities with dignity and in conformance with accepted signals and procedures will encourage the players and spectators to accept their decisions. Being overly dramatic on routine plays does not accomplish the purpose for which it is intended, and such actions frequently cause the players to lose confidence in the decision made by an 'actor.' Selling the call with dignity is much more effective. Umpires should be part of the game, never the center of attention. An umpire should not attempt to coach a player. We don't want them telling us how to do our jobs and the umpire should never tell them how to do theirs. Negative comments about a player's ability or judgment on a play by the umpire can only cause hard feelings and bring trouble to the umpire.
- 8. <u>GAME MANAGEMENT</u>: Keep the game moving. Players should hustle on and off the field between innings. Umpires should "lead by example". A speed-up of but one minute between innings can cut thirteen minutes from the time of a seveninning game. Good players usually hustle, as do good umpires. The umpire and players should move quickly to and from their positions.
- 9. COURTESY: Umpires must be courteous to players and coaches without visiting with them immediately before, during or after the game. A businesslike attitude and atmosphere must prevail. Do not get into arguments with the players, coaches or team representatives. Any discussion should be brief and to the point. A dignified attitude will often preclude and prevent an argument. Be polite and professional at all times. Umpiring is a people business.
- 10. <u>JUDGMENT</u>: The judgment necessary in making a decision is acquired through proper positioning to acquire the best possible angle. Every decision must be made on the basis of fact. Cover the play as the accepted procedure provides, and rule on the play as it was seen. Every umpire must realize that they will at some time err in their judgment regardless of how conscientious and efficient they try to be and regardless of their positioning or rules knowledge. Even when the most respected umpires "boot one" occasionally, they continue to work to the

best of their ability. The fact that every umpire makes mistakes should not cause them to drop their head, be unduly humble or embarrassed. After an error, the umpire must never attempt to even it up. Every call is made on its own merits. Frequent errors in rule interpretation or in judgment quickly cause the players, coaches and spectators to lose confidence in the umpire, but no one wants the umpire to attempt to even things out.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR UMPIRES

- 1. Honor all contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial basis.
- Study the rules of the game diligently, observe the work of other good officials, and attempt to improve at all times.
- Remember that while your work as an umpire is important, you must conduct yourself in such a way that spectator attention is directed to the players during the game and not at you.
- 4. Dress and maintain your appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the umpire.
- 5. Be fair and unbiased in your decisions, rendering them without regard to the score or the quality of the play on the field.
- Cooperate and be professional in your associations with your fellow umpires and do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
- Be firm but not overbearing; positive but never rude; dignified but never 'cocky.' Remember the good umpire doesn't have to have the last word.
- 8. Be prepared both physically and mentally to administer the game.
- 9. Do not smoke on or in the vicinity of the playing field, nor drink any alcoholic beverages before the game you are to work.
- 10. Do not give information which might be used by a team's future opponent.
- 11. Keep in mind that the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player or coach or the ambitions of any individual umpire.

UMPIRE GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Physical conditioning is a prime requisite of umpiring and requires a certain amount of discipline. Pre-season conditioning should include exercises designed to strengthen the legs. (jogging, running in place, etc). Basic forms of calisthenics to prepare one's self for hours of work behind the plate should begin well before the first game. The back and leg muscles can be easily conditioned by steadily working up to the point where knee-bends are easily endured. Conditioning during the season itself boils down to a matter of weight control and water level balance. Fluids must be replaced between games during those 'dog days' in August to prevent even the best umpires from running out of gas near the end of the season.

To discuss a mental attitude and emotional make-up favorable to being a good umpire touches many bases. Many umpires wish to continue an association with the game beyond their playing days. Others find the contribution we make to the game a source of great satisfaction. We've all heard the expression that the game can't be played to its fullest without the umpires. Others, however, think of umpiring as a major source of added income. These umpires constitute a large portion of the dropouts each season.

Often times they do not have the mental attitude or posses an understanding of the rules and purposes of the games they are umpiring. Nor do they always respect the players, coaches or their partners. Frequently, they are in a hurry to get the game over. Rarely do they involve themselves in affairs of the association designed to increase their overall development.

To remain calm in the face of adversity is an essential plan of an umpire's makeup. Composure should not be confused with complacency. Disagreements should be expected during the course of a hotly-contested ball game. The closer the call, the more likely a captain, coach or manager will have something to say. Many of us forget that a manager has a moral obligation to defend his players or their own actions. To request an interpretation of a rule is not to question the arbiter unnecessarily. An umpire must be ready to respond to legitimately raised points of the rules. To clarify a coach's misunderstanding of a rule quickly and concisely requires a thorough knowledge of the rules. In addition, it must involve some understanding of the questioner's role in the game. Finally, remember that not all players and coaches are stupid, nor are all umpires always right!!

Ejections

By rule, ejected participants shall leave the field and have no contact with the other participants or umpires. The plate umpire should not restart the game until the ejected person is gone. Although the rule book allows the umpire to rule a forfeit if the ejected participant is not removed in one minute, use good judgment. Pulling a watch only antagonizes all concerned. Explain to the manager the seriousness of forfeiture and let them handle the situation.

When a participant has been ejected in the first game of a double-header, except if dismissed for assault upon an umpire, they may return for the second game.

Exercise patience and common sense in the ejection of any participant. Don't order them out except for good cause. Ejection of a participant for a trivial offense is indefensible and reflects poorly upon the umpire.

Forfeits

All umpires have the authority to forfeit a game, but should exhaust every means at their command to prevent this action. Tell the offending team's manager a forfeit is a 'no win' situation. This is the responsibility of all umpires, so do everything possible to prevent a forfeit. Consult your partner(s) before you make the final decision to declare the forfeit

Appeals

The appeal is a unique part of the game of softball which is initiated by the offended team. It basically occurs a) when a batter bats out of order, b) a runner misses a base or touches the white portion of the base when a play is being made at first base, c) a runner leaves base too soon on a fly ball, or d) a runner attempts to advance to second base after over running first base and this action is brought to the attention of the administering umpire prior to the next pitch, before the defense has left the field or before the umpires leave the field at the conclusion of the game.

If the appeal is requested during a live or dead ball, the administering umpire whose

responsibility it was to observe the base and runner will step forward and make the safe or out call.

If an appeal is directed toward the wrong umpire, that umpire should point to the responsible umpire, call their name and state 'You've got it!' The responsible umpire should then step forward and make the call.

If an appeal is made during a dead ball, the umpire who is going to make the call (1)The plate umpire should step out from behind the catcher and take 3 or 4 steps into the infield, look for any other umpire moving to make the call and if none make the call. (2)The base umpire should take 3 to 4 steps toward the infield,, look for any other umpire moving to make the call and if none, make the call. This will distinguish which umpire should be making the call and if both umpires are moving one umpires should point to the responsible umpire, call their name and state 'You've got it'. The responsible umpire should then make the call.

A strong, distinct signal should be used when making a call on an appeal play.

Protested Games

Many umpires become unglued when a protest arises. Control when your ruling is questioned gives you an opportunity to consider whether or not you were wrong. Listen to the points raised by the objecting manager or coach. If a formal protest is to be filed, notification must be made to the opposing manager prior to the next pitch. Once a protest has been made, further discussion of the play situation proves useless in most instances. However, it is possible that the manager favored by the questionable decision will feel that the protest may be upheld and possibly order the game replayed. In that event, the manager may likely agree with the protesting manager concerning the umpire's wrong decision and point out why. The umpire then should be free to change the decision, thus eliminating the touchy protested game situation. If after consultation with other crew members, and the umpire is correct, all crew members must agree to uphold the umpire's judgment and decision. If it is determined in the consultation that the umpire was in error the decision should be reversed in order to make it correct.

If the game is to be completed under protest the umpire must make a note of the incident and all details leading up to and involving the protest, before play resumes. If the protesting team wins the game the protest becomes meaningless.

Fraternizing with Players

Umpires should refrain from fraternizing with players and coaches. Many of the ball players for whom we umpire are our friends and it is difficult not to fraternize with them; however, prior to a game a friendly hello should suffice.

Communication and Signals

Communication and signals for umpires are essential. Signs enable one umpire to let a fellow umpire know the game situation on a specific play. Umpires should review the ASA Signal Chart prior to the start of the game and utilize these throughout the game. Signaling is a very important aspect of umpiring. Decisions are relayed to the players, coaches and spectators using approved signals. The adopted signals are dignified, informative, meaningful, and therefore, shall be used by all umpires. Poorly executed and unauthorized signals serve only to confuse. The manner in which a signal is given

determines, at least to a degree, its acceptance by players, coaches and spectators. Here are the correct mechanics for each approved ASA Signal:

- ROUTINE SAFE: From the set position with the feet approximately shoulder width apart and the hands about waist high, move to an upright position with the weight on the balls of the feet, keeping your eyes on the play. Bring both hands to the chest about shoulder height and give a verbal call while extending the arms horizontally, parallel with the ground, and the palms of your hands down.
- 2. **SELL SAFE**: The same as the safe call but as the arms are extended straight out with the palms down a step should be taken toward the play.
- 3. ROUTINE OUT: From the set position with feet approximately shoulder width apart and hands about waist high, move to an upright position with the weight on the balls of the feet, keeping your eyes on the play. Bring your left hand to your body, just above your belt, and raise your right hand into a 90 degree HAMMER position. The HAMMER is made forming the 90 degree angle at the intersection of the forearm and the upper forearm, with the fingers facing the right ear. At this time the verbal call is made.
- 4. <u>SELL OUT</u>: From the set position, move to an upright position and take a step with the left foot directly at the play. Keeping your eyes on the play, raise the right arm with an open hand above your head into a throwing position. Step with the left foot and shuffle the right foot, crossing behind your left foot, as in the manner normally used by the shortstop when throwing to first base. Plant the right foot and step closer to the play with your left foot. Complete the throwing motion while giving a strong verbal call.
- STRIKE: Same basic mechanics as the Routine Out call. Keep your eyes on the ball while you give the Verbal portion of the call in the set or down position, followed by the physical signal in the upright position.
- FAIR BALL: Body upright, eyes on the ball and point toward fair territory with the arm toward the infield. There is NO verbal call on a fair ball. If wearing a mask, remove it with and hold it in your left hand.
- FOUL BALL: If the ball is foul, and goes directly to the ground, signal DEAD BALL, and give the verbal call of FOUL BALL. For balls touched near the foul line over foul territory, extend your arm in a pointing motion toward foul territory. If caught, follow with the OUT signal. If not caught follow with the DEAD BALL signal, and a verbal call of FOUL BALL.
- 8. **DEAD BALL/TIME OUT/NO PITCH**: Body upright, both arms extended high in the air with the palms of the hands open and facing away from the umpire's body. A verbal call of "dead ball", "time out" or "no pitch" is made at the same times the arms are going up.
- 9. PLAY BALL: Body upright, eyes on the pitcher and the umpire makes a motion toward the pitcher with their hand. With a right handed batter use the opposite or right hand and with a left handed batter us the opposite or left hand. A verbal call of "play" or "play ball" is made as the umpire motions toward the pitcher.
- 10. HOLD UP PLAY: Body upright and raise either hand with the palm facing the pitcher. With a right handed batter us the opposite or right hand and with a left handed batter use the opposite or left hand. "No pitch" is declared if the pitcher pitches while the umpire has their hand in this position.

- 11. <u>DELAYED DEAD BALL</u>: The left arm is extended straight out to the side of the body from the shoulder and the left hand is in a fist. This position is held long enough for the players to recognize that the umpire has observed an act that warrants this signal.
- 12. **INFIELD FLY**: Body upright, eyes on the ball and right arm extended high into the air with a closed fist. Make a verbal call of "Infield Fly". If the batted ball is near the foul line, call "Infield Fly, if Fair".
- 13. **NO CATCH**: Use the "Safe" signal along with a verbal call of "SAFE". This is used when the ball is not caught (TRAPPED) on a diving catch attempt.
- 14. <u>FOUL TIP</u>: Body upright and eyes on the ball. The fingers of both hands are touched together about shoulder high followed by a strike signal with NO verbal call.
- 15. COUNT: Body upright and look directly at the pitcher. Both hands are extended above the head to a point where they may be seen. Consecutive fingers are used to indicate the ball and strike count on the batter. Use the fingers of the left hand for balls and the fingers of the right hand for strikes. A verbal description of the count is given, mentioning the number and word 'balls' first, followed by the number and word 'strikes' next. For example, "no balls and two strikes".
- 16. <u>DOUBLE</u>: Body upright. Raise the right hand high above the head indicating with two fingers the number of bases to be awarded. A verbal call of "two bases" is made while the hand remains overhead.
- 17. HOME RUN: Body upright. Raise the right hand high above the head with a closed fist. Make a counter-clockwise circling motion with the raised fist. A verbal call of "home run" is made at the same time the fist is overhead.
- FOUR-BASE AWARD: Body upright. Raise the right hand high above the head with four fingers shown. A verbal call of "four base award" is made at the same time the hand is overhead.

Umpire-to-Umpire Communications

There are several signals between umpires which assist in communication and help the game run smoothly. These include:

- Plate umpire requesting help on a half or check swing. Remove mask and point to base umpire and ask.
- 2. Base umpire indicating YES it is a strike. Give strike signal.
- 3. Base umpire indicating NO the batter did not swing. Give a safe signal.
- 4. Indicating an infield fly situation. Right hand to the left chest.
- 5. When requesting the count or the number of outs, use a verbal communication request and your partner should reply with the count verbally.

Pre-Game Responsibilities

Arrive at the playing field dressed, ready for the game no less than 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time. Get the game balls and prepare them for use in the game. Let the managers know you are there, give them line-up cards and let them know the starting time for the game. Check with the scorekeeper, league or tournament director and the UIC, so they are aware of your arrival, and to see if there are any instructions.

Review the ground rules with the tournament director, UIC or home team prior to the

pre-game conference with the managers. If there is a conflict, the umpires should resolve it before entering the field of play.

Ensure the field is properly marked, that the pitcher's plate and bases are legal and at proper distances. It is important for the umpires to be together and walk the field so that any points or questions concerning the ground rules can be addressed. All obstacles which could or may create dead ball situations should be specifically noted and examined.

Review coverage and proper tag-up calls with your partner(s) so there will be no confusion during the game. Discuss signals to be used between the umpires to assist calls. Discuss rules only if there is some confusion or concern.

It is very important for you, the umpire, to make a good first impression with everyone involved in your ball game. Make certain you are well groomed. Your shoes should be shined, uniform clean and pressed, the shirt clean and cap neat and on straight. You won't be out there five minutes before you will be all dust and dirt, but nevertheless, the first appearance makes a big impression on everyone in the park.

Pre-Game Ground Rules

Umpires should meet with the managers, captains, or their representative(s) at home plate for ground rules no less than five minutes before game time. Check the line-ups from the respective teams. Make certain the team representative checks their line-up card including first and last name, defensive position and uniform number of each participant. When returned to the umpire, the line-up is official. A copy of the line-up card should also be turned over to the scorekeeper. Next, go over the ground rules.

The discussion at the plate before the game should be handled by the plate umpire. It is not necessary for the other umpire to enter the discussion, except to ask a question for clarification.

- The plate umpire should introduce all umpires to both managers and/or coaches in attendance.
- Review ground rules. Begin by outlining dead ball areas, then continue on to home
 plate, third base dugouts, outfield fence and foul poles, and first base dugouts.
 Cover all openings and obstacles.

Ground rules should take care of situations for the particular playing field. Always try to make all ground rules so they keep the ball in play as much as possible. In ball parks that are not completely fenced in, the umpire should establish an out of play area down the left field and right field lines, usually paralleling the foul lines and starting at the back stop to the players bench and then from the players bench on out. Umpires should try to sight a permanent object from the end of the bench to make it easier to determine whether a ball is in or out of play. Make sure that the bats are stored behind the out-of-play-line and players stay in the dugout area.

Ground rules should define the playing area, not the enforcement procedures stated in the official playing rules of softball.

Following the pre-game discussion with the managers, it is advisable to double check the data with the scorer so that if an error in recording or completing the line-up card is made it can be corrected. It is important to briefly discuss with the official scorer such matters as how substitutes and/or courtesy runners will be reported.

The umpire is responsible for the batting order and should maintain a line-up card, throughout the game.

Available from the ASA is a "Pre-Game/Signal Card" which offers additional comments to assist with the pre-game conference. Comments for pre-game discussions with your umpiring partner, as well as with the managers, are included.

Procedure at End of Game

Umpires should leave the field together after giving the defensive team reasonable time for a possible appeal play. When the game is completed, each umpire should take care of their own equipment and the crew should leave the field together on the side where you will receive the least resistance, normally the winning team.

The plate umpire should return the game balls to the person responsible for them, and report at once to the proper authority any flagrant conduct or irregularity associated with the game.

Often players and fans will make comments to umpires as they leave the field. Do not stop to answer their questions or enter into an argument about any controversial play that occurred in the game. Politely tell them, "I can't discuss the play with you now" or "I am sorry I can't talk with you now, as I have to get prepared for my next game." Don't kid yourself into thinking you will be able to explain the play to them or make them believe you. If they didn't agree with you at the time the play happened, they most often won't agree with you after the game either. Some players and fans want the umpire to stop or respond to their comments, but for the umpire to do so is both unprofessional and inexcusable. Umpires must learn to keep their composure at all times. This may mean biting your tongue on occasion, but an umpire should remember you do not have to have the last word. Be polite to everyone and quickly leave the area as businesslike and inconspicuously as possible.

If you are confronted be cautious of what you say. Be polite with your answers and remain under control. Do not say anything which may embarrass you later, for such things could easily result in the situation being blown out of proportion and even more difficult for everyone.

Questions pertaining to your game schedule, salaries and allowances should be kept secret. If asked you can politely state, "I am sorry but we are not permitted to divulge that information."

When the game is over the umpire crew should find a location to be by them, clean up and discuss the game just completed. Review any unusual situations that occurred during the game to see if you could have covered the play better. Umpires must forget the games in the past and concentrate on doing a job in the future. Umpires should not hold a grudge or remember the comments a player made in an earlier game. Each game is a new game and a fresh start for everyone. Don't go on the field looking for trouble. It will find you quick enough without looking for it.

An umpire is expected to be perfect your very first game and improve each game thereafter.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR UMPIRES DOS AND DON'TS

Do...

- 1. HUSTLE.
- Study rules regularly.
- 3. Be neat and well groomed at all times.
- 4. Study why bad situations occur and work to correct them.
- Be courteous but firm.
- 6. Be punctual.
- 7. Forget the bad days and the players that gave you trouble. Tomorrow is another day.
- Be truthful.
- 9. Call your own plays.
- 10. Keep your hands off the players or coaches at all times.
- 11. Keep home plate and pitcher's plate clean.
- 12. Get as close to the play as possible without smothering it.
- 13. Back up your partner.
- 14. Keep your eye on the ball.
- 15. Bear down whenever necessary.
- 16. Be alert in thinking of the game situation.
- 17. Always strive to improve yourself and your umpiring.
- 18. Stay in shape.
- 19. Be pleasant and professional at all times.
- 20. Know the ball park and ground rules.
- 21. Take pride in your work.
- 22. Avoid unnecessary conversation with the players and managers.
- Use the energy necessary to make a call believable, but never embarrass a player.

Don't...

- 1. Kid the ball players at any time.
- 2. Call the pitch until it is caught or hits the ground behind the plate.
- 3. Verbalize the strike when the batter obviously swings at and misses a pitch.
- 4. Second guess your partner at any time, on or off the field.
- Make decisions too soon. Take a good look first to be sure the play is completed, and then make your call.
- Tell the players what to do or how to play their position. Your job is to umpire and attend to that only.
- Call the runner out with your mask in the right hand. It might slip out of your hand and hit the runner or fielder making the play.
- 8. Let the players abuse you. Be patient and tolerant.
- 9. Be doubtful. Know what is going on.
- 10. Stand in a player's way, then they can't use you as an alibi.
- 11. Have rabbit ears. Ignore what they say or do in the stands?
- 12. Look for trouble. You'll find plenty of it without looking.
- 13. Walk on the field with a cigarette in your hand or your hat in your pocket.
- 14. Be overly technical. Use common sense.

- 15. Talk about anyone else unless you have something good to say about them.
- 16. Go out in the field with a chip on your shoulder.
- 17. Try to out-talk the players. Let them do the talking and when they have said enough, make them play ball.
- 18. Talk back to the stands, for they can think faster than you.
- 19. Worry about the game or what happened on the diamond. It is all over as far as you are concerned when the last out is made.
- Chew tobacco when you are umpiring.
- 21. Make any of your decisions or calls too soon. It is better to be a little late in making the call rather than to make the call, and then reverse your decision.
- 22. Locate the ball for the players or let on where the ball is.
- 23. Alibi to anyone at any time. It won't help.
- Carry messages to your partner from a player. Tell them they had better deliver their own messages and never tell your partner anything you might hear.
- 25. Allow the players to keep anything hanging out of their pockets when they bat.
- 26. Get the big head or try to put on an act when you are on or off the field.
- Get lazy. No one respects or appreciates an umpire who doesn't hustle. You're fooling no one but yourself.
- 28. Give the other umpire trouble. If something comes up that should be talked about, do it in a nice way.
- Pick on any particular players. It leads to umpire-player friction and sooner or later is sure to cause trouble. Forgive and forget.

SECTION 3 PLATE MECHANICS

GENERAL PLATE MECHANICS

Timing

It is IMPORTANT that an umpire develop proper timing and rhythm in making decisions. It is not only important to know when to drop to the set position but it is equally important to develop a definite rhythm in making ALL calls and that rhythm should not vary. Only the emphasis of various calls will change.

It is said that the plate umpire sets the tempo and controls the game. If an umpire is going to control and set the tempo of the game, they MUST first be in control of themselves. The first step to do this is to develop a sense of timing and rhythm. An umpire who makes calls quickly on every pitch will appear to be guessing. Timing must be slow enough, yet deliberate and consistent. Track the ball watching the ball from the pitcher's hand into the catcher's glove or to the ground in Slow Pitch, using a slight movement of the head and eyes guided by your nose.

Strikes

Everyone appreciates the umpire who has developed proper timing in administering decisions as a plate umpire. This development lends more to setting the tempo and controlling the game than any other facet of umpiring. Suggested guidelines are:

- 1. Drop to the set position. (See fast and slow pitch plate mechanics.)
- 2. Track the ball from the pitcher's hand to the catcher's glove/mitt or until it touches the ground in Slow Pitch. Hesitate and make a call slightly after the pitch has been caught by the catcher or touches the ground in Slow Pitch. Even though your decision is made as the ball crosses home plate, verbalize your call after the ball is in the catcher's glove/mitt or touches the ground in Slow Pitch.
- 3. Call "Strike!" briskly and loudly.
- 4. Make the verbal STRIKE call from the set position slightly after the ball is in the catcher's glove/mitt or touches the ground in Slow Pitch.
- 5. Rise to the upright position without moving your feet. Bring your right arm to a 90-degree angle. Move the forearm slightly forward like a hammer to add certainty to your call. The hammer should always be given in the upright position.

Calling Strikes







Slow pitch (above) and fast pitch (below) are identical in the mechanics.







Balls

The procedure for calling 'BALLS' is as follows:

- Drop to the set position and track the ball from the pitcher's hand to the catcher's glove/mitt or until it touches the ground in Slow Pitch. Allow the pitch to cross the home plate and do not make a call until the ball is in the catcher's glove or touches the ground in Slow Pitch.
- 2. Make a crisp verbal call, 'BALL' with a downward vocal inflection.
- 3. Step back with your lead foot while assuming an upright position.
- Drop your arms to your sides, relax, and await your next call. Balls should always be called from the down or set position and before any move is made toward the upright position.
- In Men's Slow Pitch and Women's Open Slow Pitch, a pitched ball that hits the ground before reaching home plate, hits the plate, or hits the batter becomes dead. A non-verbal dead ball signal should be given, followed by a verbal ball call.

Count

The plate umpire is responsible for keeping the proper count. Relay the count periodically by giving the number of balls on the batter with the left hand and the number of strikes on the right. In addition, give the count verbally, ALWAYS with the number of balls first. Example: "2 balls and 2 strikes".

How often the count is given depends on a number of situations. If the field is equipped with a scoreboard, it is only necessary to give the count when requested by a player or manager or to correct the scoreboard if it is incorrect. Remember, if the scoreboard is incorrect, try to correct it as inconspicuously as possible. The scorer is also an official of the game and should be treated accordingly.

If there is no scoreboard, the count should be given: 1) when requested, 2) after a delay in the normal flow of the game, or 3) whenever the plate umpire feels the next pitch could create a change in status: for example 3 balls and/or 2 strikes on the batter. This is a situation where on the next pitch there could be a base on balls or a strike out. It simply alerts the teams of the game situation as well as alerting all umpires to be ready. When giving the count always give it to the pitcher. Make sure the pitcher is looking your way before you give the count.

Ball Rotation Procedure

According to ASA procedure, the current game ball is in play until such time as it goes out of play. However, the pitcher does have a choice of balls at the start of each inning. In addition, if both balls do not get into play in the first half of the first inning, the pitcher in the bottom half of the first inning MUST throw the unused ball. No choice is offered.

Each pitcher has a choice of game balls at the start of each half inning, but this does not permit the pitcher having both balls for trial purposes before making a choice. It means that after the inning is completed, the ball should be returned to the vicinity of the pitching plate by the team leaving the field or by the umpire. The pitcher taking the field now has a ball to start the next half inning. The pitcher may request the other ball from the plate umpire prior to the first warm-up pitch. The pitcher may NOT hold both game balls at one time

Before the plate umpire relinquishes the second ball, the pitcher must first hand or toss the ball presently in the game to the plate umpire. Then, and only then, should the umpire toss the second ball into the game for play. THE PITCHER HAS NOW MADE A CHOICE and must pitch that ball.

If the umpire deems any ball unfit for play, the ball may be replaced without penalty. This ball should be removed from the game.

Fly Balls

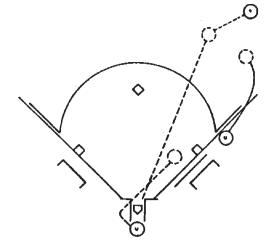
The plate umpire calls ALL fly balls as well as rendering all decisions on Fair/Foul and Catch/No Catch, except when the base umpire(s) TURN THEIR BACK to the infield and goes to the outfield to make the call. Once the base umpire turns their back to the infield, it is THEIR CALL, fair/ foul or caught or not caught. The base umpire should NOT RETURN. If a base umpire does not turn to go to the outfield, they should NOT make a call. The plate umpire should not mirror the signal given by the base umpire on fair / foul or catch / no catch.

Any time there is a fly ball or possible trapped ball situation, an umpire should go out. Any time there is an umpire positioned up the middle in the three umpire system, that umpire will not go out on a fly ball down either foul line. In three umpire system, an umpire positioned on the line at the time of the pitch, should go out on a fly ball down that line, fair or foul.

Any time there is a batted ball hit near the fence or a sinking line drive, regardless of the number of runners, an umpire should go out.

In making calls on fly balls, especially on possible balls that are questionable to whether they will be caught, the umpire should NOT go directly to the play. Move to the best angle to the catch. Move parallel to the flight of the ball to pick up your best angle on the catch/no catch. Give a clear signal and use a loud voice to indicate catch/no catch.

FIGURE 01.



Fair and Foul Balls

On fly balls near the foul lines umpires should think in terms of priority of fair / foul and then catch / no catch. If you do not think in terms of these priorities, on the routine fly ball near the line that everyone expects to be caught is DROPPED, everyone knows that the batter is SAFE but no one, including the umpire will know whether or not the ball was FAIR or FOUL. This is very important in the Slow Pitch game as an uncaught third strike foul ball is an out. Batted balls that are obviously foul or fair need only be called out or safe.

When umpires are not stationed on either foul line and a ball is hit into the outfield near a foul line, or against the fence or over the fence, the plate umpire must go out as far as possible without leaving the infield to get the best look at the ball. Ideally you should go about half way to first base and come to a stop on the foul line.

Batted balls hit down the foul lines close to the foul line should be called in a very decisive manner. On uncaught foul balls, the DEAD BALL signal is given. On all caught foul fly balls, the ball remains live , and the OUT signal, and the verbal "OUT" call is all that is necessary. On batted balls close to the foul line, once it is touched the umpire must point toward fair or foul territory indicating the status of the ball, before signaling catch or no catch. REMEMBER THE VOICE IS USED ON FOUL BALLS , OUT CALLS, or a caught fly ball over fair territory.

Batted balls that leave the park near the foul lines should also be called very decisively, so there can be no question about the umpire's decision on the play.

Plate umpires are responsible for all FAIR or FOUL bounding balls over first or third base regardless if a base umpire is positioned on the foul line. Base umpires are only responsible for fair or foul if they turn their back and go to the outfield.

Umpires are cautioned to judge balls hit for distance directly down the foul lines fair or foul as the ball passes the point where the outfield fence or barrier and the foul pole join. The umpires are not to judge the ball fair or foul before it reaches this point.

Leaving the Plate Area and Trailing the Batter-Runner:

The plate umpire should always trail with no runners on or with a runner at first base, unless the play takes them elsewhere. It is recommended that you trail about one third of the way down the first base line.

Develop the habit of leaving the plate area from the left of the catcher. The catcher normally leaves the plate area to the right side. This is the shortest route to back up plays at first base which is one of the catcher's priorities.

Leaving the plate area on the left side of the catcher should avoid any collision with the catcher.

With no runners on base or a runner on first base only, leave the plate area on the left side and follow the base runner toward first base in fair ground. Ideally you should go about one third of the way to first base and come to a stop slightly inside the foul line and observe the play at first.

This will enable you to either make or assist the base umpire in administration of:

- Collisions by the catcher and batter-runner.
- 2. Tags made by the catcher or any infielder on the batter-runner prior to entering the three foot running lane is the responsibility of the plate umpire. From that point to first base is the base umpire's responsibility.

- Violations of the THREE-FOOT lane.
- Overthrows and blocked balls.
- 5. A possible pulled foot.
- A possible juggled catch.
- 7. The base umpire going to the outfield. You are already in position to make any calls on the bases that might develop.

After moving toward first base with a runner on first base, be aware of a possible play at third base with the lead runner, as that is the plate umpire's responsibility also. After going one-third of the way down the first base line the plate umpire should move across the infield directly toward third base for a possible play.

Passed Balls (Fast Pitch, Slow Pitch with stealing), Wild Pitches (Fast Pitch, Slow Pitch with stealing) and Fly Balls to the Backstop.

DO NOT watch the ball once it has been popped-up, or once the ball passes the catcher on a passed ball or wild pitch. Think in terms of priorities. Your first priority is to avoid a collision with the catcher and then allow the catcher to make the play.

Move back, as you are removing your mask, if needed, and watch the catcher's shoulders. The catcher cannot move in any direction without shoulder movement. Pivot out of the way, clear the area and find the ball.

Once you have found the ball, your priorities become: 1) the back stop and 2) the foul line. If the ball goes back to the backstop, follow the play to observe a possible trap against the backstop, the ball becoming blocked, or the ball leaving the field of play.

On a fly ball near the line, remember your priorities are: 1) 'fair / foul', and 2) 'catch / no catch'.

If a runner is in scoring position at third base, take a position in the rear-most corner of the right hand batter's box for a possible play at the plate. If the ball is at the backstop, move as the play dictates to inside the diamond or on the first base side without crossing the path of the batter or runner.

Conferences

It is the plate umpire's responsibility to enforce the rules governing conferences both offensive and defensive.

The plate umpire shall inform the team, offensively or defensively, that once a conference has been charged. They should record the conference on their line-up card.

An offensive conference may include any number of runners, players, coaches or the batter.

The defensive conference is charged when: 1) when the manager or other team representative from the dugout request "time" and communicates with any defensive player. Note: Yelling instructions from the dugout area is not a conference. 2) A defensive player requests a suspension of play and goes to the dugout area for instructions.

A conference shall NOT be charged if the offensive team confers with a batter or runner when the defensive team requests a time out for a conference. Nor is it a charged conference if the defensive team takes advantage of the offensive team having a conference.

HOWEVER, once the umpire instructs the team that is charged with the conference to "Play Ball", both teams must immediately play ball or be in jeopardy of having a conference charged to them and enforcement of the appropriate penalty.

Third Base Calls

In making calls at third base, the plate umpire should remain in foul territory halfway between home plate and third base, watching the play develop. If there is a call to be made at third base, the umpire should 1) move inside the diamond about two-thirds of the way to third, 2) move in about 10 to 12 feet from the base and make the call.



The umpire should be inside the diamond at this point, as that it is the best position to make the call. If the ball should get away from the third baseman, it is normally going into foul territory and any interference by the umpire will be avoided by being in this position. Here again, we are using the inside-outside theory.

In addition, if the throw is wild and the runner continues to advance toward home, the plate umpire has avoided a collision with the runner rounding third. Another reason would be that from this inside position the umpire will have a 10 to 15 foot advantage in covering any play at the plate.

Rundowns

When a runner is caught in a rundown, it is important that the covering umpire move to get the best perspective of both ends of the play. Usually the umpire will be a minimum of 15 feet from the runner and move parallel to the base line unless you are covering the play alone. It is not necessary to run back and forth with the runner, but the umpire must follow the ball. Move quickly toward or around the play to get the best angle as the tag is applied. Be alert for obstruction. Most rundowns are covered by one umpire because they happen quickly.

Whenever possible, with a single runner in a RUNDOWN, two umpires should 'bracket' the play as follows:

- Between first and second base, the plate umpire should take the 'trail' position, closest to first base. The base umpire should take the 'lead' position at second base. The plate umpire should be inside the diamond while the base umpire should be outside the diamond.
- Between second and third base, the plate umpire should take the 'lead' position closest to third inside the diamond while the base umpire takes the 'trail' position closest to second base outside the diamond.
- 3) Between third base and home plate, the plate umpire will take the 'lead' position nearest home plate OUTSIDE the diamond, while the base umpire takes the 'trail' position nearest third base INSIDE the diamond.

In ALL cases the umpire should communicate, "I've got the lead," or "I've got this end," etc. This communication is critical to being able to team on the call, rather than making a possible double call. When two umpires are covering a rundown, the direction in which

this runner is moving at the time of the tag will dictate which umpire will make the call. We never want two umpires making any call, even if they are the same calls.

Run Counts (Time Play)

It is important that umpires work together on situations where the third out of the inning is a tag play with a runner about to score. The base umpire must make their call LOUD and CLEAR to assist the plate umpire in making their determination. This is one situation when the out call on the bases must be made without any unnecessary delay.

The plate umpire should immediately and without hesitation indicate the "Run counts" or the "Run does not count" and inform the scorekeeper. The umpire should know a run does NOT count if the third out of the inning is a result of:

- 1. A batter-runner being put out prior to reaching first base.
- A force out.
- A runner being put out by a tag or live ball appeal play prior to the lead runner touching home plate..
- 4. A preceding runner is declared out on an appeal play.

NOTE: A "fourth out" appeal can be made after the third out in order to nullify a run.

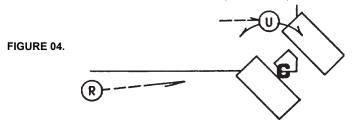
Tag Plays at Home Plate

Basically, there are two positions for making calls on tag plays at the plate: 1) When returning from third base to make a call from inside the diamond and 2) when the play is coming from fair territory or a throw from the outfield to make a call from the outside.

In returning from third base, and the ball is in foul territory, the plate umpire should stay inside the diamond, moving parallel to the base line and assume a position 10 to 12 feet from home plate and 90 degrees from the path of the runner.

Keep your weight distributed on the balls of your feet, move in on the play as it develops, find the ball and make the call. (See figure 05.)

On a play at third that allows the runner to advance, the ball, for the most part, will wind up in foul territory. You remain inside the diamond as you move to home plate. All four elements will remain within view—the ball, the defense, the offense and the base.



On plays at the plate where the ball is coming from fair territory or a throw from the outfield, the plate umpire should assume a position in foul territory, 90 degrees from the path of the runner just outside the deepest corner of the right hand batter's box. (Figure 04.) After making this call the umpire should clear out while continuing to watch the ball, remaining in foul territory. If the ball gets away and goes behind the umpire, move as

the play dictates to inside the diamond or the first base side without crossing the path of the runner.



Assume the basic position. Keep your weight distributed on the balls of your feet, move in as the play develops, find the ball and make the call accordingly.

Due to the critical nature of the play at home plate, move in to find the ball. If you can't find it, ask the player for the BALL and point with your left hand and SELL the call accordingly.

Appeal at Home Plate

When the runner misses home plate and the catcher misses the tag, the umpire should HESITATE slightly to allow the players to finish the play. The runner will reach to tag the plate or the catcher will reach to tag the runner. If no tag is made, the umpire should declare the runner SAFE. If a proper appeal is made, the umpire should honor the appeal and then declare the runner OUT.

There are two reasons why we advocate this procedure: 1) We do NOT want to tip either team that the play may not be over, and 2) a runner is assumed SAFE until put out. If a proper appeal is NOT made, the runner is SAFE.

Difficult Situations

The following are difficult situations to be handled by the plate umpire:

- Check swing situations.
- A hit batter, including situations where a pitch is up and in, where it could hit the batter then the bat or hit the bat and then the batter, or the pitch that hits the hands.
- 3. A batter hitting a batted ball a second time.
- 4. Balls hit off the batter's foot.

The rules governing these situations are relatively simple. It's the situation itself that create the problem. All too often the umpire will add to the confusion by not handling the situation properly. In MOST cases proper mechanics can avoid further complications.

Difficult situations call for DEFINITE ACTION. The best advice is to stay calm and make an emphatic call of DEAD BALL. Except for the check swing, the above mentioned plays result in a dead ball. There is no hurry! Once you call dead ball, enforce the penalty.

The proper DEAD BALL call serves two purposes: 1) It kills the play to avoid further confusion. 2) It gives you the opportunity to clear the cob webs and make the proper call

At this point a slight hesitation allows you the opportunity to think the play through and make the proper call.

A well umpired game often falls by the wayside because an umpire failed to use proper mechanics in handling difficult situations and simply added to the confusion. It is the handling of these and other difficult situations that separate the excellent umpire from the mediocre umpire.

Check Swing Situations

Probably one of the toughest situations for the plate umpire to handle alone is the 'check swing' situation. It is difficult because: 1) The plate umpire has to determine whether the pitch was in the strike zone. 2) Did the batter swing at the pitch?

To complicate the issue, the catcher may come up and block the umpire's vision.

The umpire should think in terms of the above priorities. If in doubt, call it a ball and ask for help from the base umpire. Call it a strike if it was in the strike zone or the batter swings and misses.

Normally there are four areas which constitute whether or not the batter has swung at the ball or checked the swing: 1) rolling the wrist, 2) swinging through the ball and bringing or drawing the bat back, unless drawing it back before the pitch gets to the bat 3) the bat being out in front of the body, or 4) makes an attempt to hit the pitch.

The plate umpire should let everyone know that the batter swung at the ball by pointing at the batter with the left hand for right handed batters or the right hand for left handed batters, then give a strong **verbal confirmation** accompanied by a strike signal. Remove all doubt that the batter swung at the pitch.

If the pitch is called a ball and the catcher requests that you ask for help, and you are not sure if the batter swung, ask for help. It is not a weakness to go for help.

Ask for help by removing your mask as you 1) step out from behind the catcher, 2) point to the base umpire and ask. When working the three-umpire system, step away from the batter and immediately go to the appropriate base umpire. If the batter is right-handed, go to the first base umpire. If the batter is left-handed, go to the third base umpire. When a pitch is called a strike, it will remain a strike, and a request for help is not permitted.

If the base umpire rules that the batter swung, they should give a verbal "YES" accompanied by a strong strike signal. If it is the third strike, a strong "sell" signal is recommended. If the base umpire ruled that the batter did not swing, a verbal "NO" with a safe signal is given. The plate umpire should not "echo" the call. The plate umpire should return to a position behind the catcher with the mask on, and give the count to reinforce the call.

Dead Ball Situations

Hit by Pitch. In fast pitch, if a batter is hit by a pitched ball, the award is first base, providing an attempt is made to avoid the pitch, there was no swing and the ball was not in the strike zone. THE HANDS ARE NOT PART OF THE BAT! Any time the batter is hit by a pitched ball, the ball is DEAD. In slow pitch the ball is dead and no awards are granted.

Hitting the Ball a Second Time. After leaving the batter's box, a batter is OUT and the ball is dead if the ball is hit a second time over FAIR territory.

An umpire should not guess a batter out. If the batter tops the ball, it hits the plate, comes straight up immediately and hits the batter's bat, a foul ball is ruled. Consider the situation. You are behind the catcher and six or seven feet behind home plate, a poor

position to determine a fair batted ball that has been hit a second time. IF YOU have any doubt as to whether it was a fair ball when it was hit a second time, it is a FOUL BALL! On the other hand, if you KNOW it was a fair ball, the ball is dead and the batter is out. The key is the batter's foot in relation to the batter's box. 1) Come up with a good dead ball signal and verbalize "DEAD BALL", 2) point to the ground where the contact occurred and call the out.

The important thing at this point, is that you TAKE CHARGE and SELL THE CALL.

Ball Off Batter's Foot. If a batted fair ball hits off the batter's foot, THE BATTER IS OUT, unless the batter is in the batter's box when hit by the ball. If the ball is in foul territory when it hits the batter's foot, it is a FOUL BALL.

This play has to be handled immediately and properly. Often it is difficult for the plate umpire to detect the foot being hit. The base umpire should be alert to this situation and call DEAD BALL immediately when it occurs.

There is nothing more embarrassing than to have the batter hit a ball off the foot while in the batter's box, have the pitcher pick up a slow roller and throw the runner out at first base, only to find that the batter DID NOT even leave the batter's box because everyone knew it was a FOUL BALL except the umpires.

The plate umpire should call "DEAD BALL", followed by "FOUL BALL" or "OUT". The base umpire, when assisting the plate umpire, should declare DEAD BALL. The base umpire SHOULD NOT call a batter out from 70 or 80 feet away.

Remember, this is a tough call for the plate umpire. SELL IT! If there is any doubt that the batter was hit while in the batter's box. Again, never guess an out.

Time Out - Suspension of Play

To indicate to the pitcher NOT to start to pitch, the umpire should raise the right hand for a right handed batter and the left hand for a left handed batter, with the palm facing the pitcher.

No pitch shall be declared if the pitcher pitches while the umpire is holding up play.

TIME OUT shall be called for the purpose of SUSPENDING PLAY. The proper signal for time out is BOTH hands, extended high above the head with a verbal call. As opposed to the holding-up play, the TIME OUT call and signal should be forceful, distinct and very apparent that play has been suspended. TIME OUT should be followed by a distinct PLAY BALL when play is resumed.

If the batter has one foot only in the batter's box, the umpire should hold up play. If the batter has both feet in the batter's box, time must be requested by the batter and granted by the umpire in order for the batter to step out. If the pitcher has started the pitch, TIME OUT should NOT be granted. The pitch should be called a strike or ball depending on its location.

Catcher Obstruction

Catcher obstruction is the act of the catcher that hinders or prevents a batter from striking at or hitting a pitched ball.

If the batter-runner and all runners have advanced at least one base, the obstruction is ignored and no option given. When an award for catcher obstruction is in order, the offensive team shall be given the option of accepting the result of the play or the award for catcher obstruction.

In almost all cases catcher obstruction is a delayed dead ball. It can occur during the back swing as well as the forward swing of the bat. Any time the contact is prior to the pitch, the umpire should call "DEAD BALL" and give both players time to reset.

Illegal Pitch

Either umpire may call an illegal pitch. The plate umpire should call the timing elements, stepping outside the 24 inch width (Fast Pitch Women and Junior Olympic Only) and delivery such as side-arm, etc. The base umpire should call all violations in front or to the rear of the pitcher's plate, crow-hop, leap (FP) or starting from off the pitcher's plate front and rear.

The umpire should call the illegal pitch when it becomes illegal. Use the DELAYED DEAD BALL signal and call "illegal" loud enough for nearby players to hear you. In Fast Pitch an illegal pitch is a live ball until the play is completed.

Procedure on Home Run Balls

Players from the dugout should not run on the playing field to congratulate the batter between third base and home plate. Tell the players to stay back until all runners touch home plate. The plate umpire can do this by motioning them back and by telling them to "stay back until the batter touches the plate." If the umpire is controlling the game, the players will follow directions. As soon as the batter passes third base, and not before, get the next game ball out of your ball bag, and as soon as you watch the batter touch home plate, throw the new ball to the pitcher. After doing this, swing around to where you are facing the backstop and crisply dust off home plate and return to your position behind the catcher by going through the batter's box opposite the next batter.

In the male slow pitch game where the classification system limits the number of home runs allowed by a team, it is important to maintain a proper count of the home runs hit. The official scorer should be notified in advance that when a team reaches their limit, they should notify the plate umpire. If an outfielder touches a fly ball which then goes over the fence in fair territory, this is considered a four-base award, rather than a home run. Mechanics are similar to a home run, with the exception that four fingers will be raised high over the head rather than a closed fist, and a verbal call of "four-base" award made so that all are aware the hit will not count toward the home run total.

In all Men's Class A, Women's Open and Co-ed Major Slow Pitch when a home run is hit, the batter and all base-runners may go directly to the dugout. No one needs to run the bases. This nullifies any appeal for missing a base.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PLATE UMPIRES

- HUSTLE.
- Obtain the batting order from both managers at the pre-game meeting, review it
 making sure there are no errors in names, numbers, positions or number of players
 required to be present to start a game or play shorthanded. Discuss the Ground
 Rules at this time so both managers and the umpires are all in agreement.
- The plate umpire should always handle introductions of all umpires to the managers during the pre-game conference.
- Keep the plate clean. When dusting home plate, face the backstop. Always brush the plate with a lot of pep and snap.

- Use the time spent in brushing the plate to communicate with the catcher and/or batter when necessary.
- 6. On a ball call, say only ball. On ball four, emphasize the number 4.
- Say Strike only. If it is strike three, emphasize the number 3. Do not say "Strike 3, you're out".
- A non-verbal strike signal should be given when a batter swings at a pitch and misses.
- Give proper emphasis when calling a half-swing or if a batter takes a called third strike at a crucial time in the game.
- 10. Don't intimidate or embarrass the batter with a call strike 3. Use a signal and voice that reflects the importance, difficulty, and/or closeness of the play.
- Do not verbally describe a pitch or use a hand signal to indicate the location of a pitch.

SLOW PITCH PLATE MECHANICS

Working the plate in slow pitch is very challenging. With the addition of base-stealing in the adult slow pitch game, the umpires are more involved on a "pitch by pitch" basis. This requires constant concentration and proper mechanics. In the slow pitch game the strike zone is larger, front shoulder to back knee, and allows the plate umpire to remain more "upright" to see the ball pass through the strike zone. Devote your attention to watching the pitcher's delivery and the ball as it passes home plate and/or is swung at and hit. Your feet should be at least shoulder width apart, with the foot closest to the batter slightly forward. This is referred to as the "heel-toe" stance. Shoulders should be squared to the plate with your eyes on the ball and aligning your hips to the outside corner of the plate. This is referred to as "Good Pelvic Alignment" (GPA). Your eyes should be aligned at the top of the strike zone.

Set Position

When assuming the set position, bend the knees while keeping the back as straight as possible with your weight distributed on the "balls of your feet". It is important to develop a good consistent strike zone. **Drop to the set position when the pitch starts** to be in position when the legal pitch crosses the strike zone.

A pitch that is exactly 12 feet may require a lower set position, to determine if the pitch passes through the strike zone, than a pitch that is exactly 6 feet. If a pitch is determined to be illegal, give the delayed dead ball signal and make a verbal call of 'illegal.' This will be very helpful in making the call on the "flat pitch" or "quick pitch". Once in the set position, stay down on illegal pitch calls.



Calling Balls and Strikes

In slow pitch, the ball is delivered with an arc at a moderate speed. Take the slot position between the batter and the catcher where the entire plate can be seen. This allows the umpire to see where the pitch lands or is caught by the catcher. Any pitched ball not hit becomes dead when it touches the ground or the plate except in the games that allow stealing.

In Men's Slow Pitch and Women's Open Slow Pitch, base stealing is allowed. A pitched ball that hits the ground in front of home plate, hits home plate, or hits the batter, becomes dead and a non-verbal dead ball signal followed by a verbal ball or a strike signal shall be given. A ball that hits the ground behind the plate or is caught by the catcher is a live ball.

Catchers are not required to work from the crouch position. They can normally be found standing, kneeling on one knee or standing and bent over at the waist. The catcher will generally take a position directly behind the plate on one knee, or off to the side of the catcher's box, where they can stand and watch the ball coming in. They can catch from any of these positions quite easily, since they have an authorized area 8 1/2 feet wide to roam.

It is important that umpires work from a set position as illustrated and have a relaxed stance where the weight is forward and not back on the heels. The ball is hit and is in play so often it is imperative that umpires be constantly ready to move out from behind the plate to either trail a runner to first base, a fly ball, etc. The slow pitch umpire must be prepared and able to move at all times. The umpire must also remember to always leave the plate and catcher from the left side.

Calling balls and strikes with consistency is as difficult in slow pitch as in fast pitch for several reasons.

- The ball is coming in with an arc of approximately 12 feet and there is little or nothing in our daily lives with which to compare it. The umpire must develop a judgment of 12 feet and try to be consistent with it.
- The pitch is judged to be a ball or strike by where the batter would be standing in a natural hitting stance parallel to the plate. Batters usually don't stand parallel to the plate. Generally, the batter is standing all the way to the rear of the batter's

box, which means you must judge the pitch where it crosses the plate, some three feet forward of the batter. Balls bouncing in front of the batter then are often times strikes. Other batters will stand at the front of the batter's box and a pitch that goes over their head can now still be a strike.

3. The umpire also must cope with illegal pitches. For example, was the release simultaneous with the step; was the step legal; was the ball released the first time past the hip; did the pitcher come to a stop with the ball in front of the body; was the ball too high or too flat?

Because of the nature of the slow pitch game, umpires generally call more illegal pitches. Therefore, it is essential to be consistent and always extend the left arm straight out to the side, the delayed dead ball signal, as soon as a pitch becomes illegal and state 'illegal.' The key to calling balls and strikes successfully in slow pitch is definitely 'consistency.'

The game is only going to be as good as the umpires that work it, and the game can only be controlled from behind the plate. The umpire should not be a dictator but a take-charge umpire that runs their ball game. Don't let the fans or players control you. The tail doesn't wag the dog. This begins the moment you come on the field and administer the ground rules and continues until you leave the field.

Track each pitch from the pitcher's hand to the catcher's glove or the ground. Develop a good deep voice in your strike call and a sharp distinct ball call. Remember, balls are not 'nothings'. Every pitch is verbalized as either a ball or strike. Umpires don't remain silent when a pitch is ruled a ball. A legal pitch is not verbalized until it is caught or hits the ground. The umpire then hesitates slightly and makes the call in the down position.

The umpire is not an announcer or broadcaster on the field. Let the people broadcasting the game describe the pitches as 'a little inside' or 'just outside', 'ball deep', etc. All the umpire should say is 'ball' or 'strike.' Describing the pitch is a cop out for an umpire. If a player wants to know where the pitch was, they will ask, and then you can tell them.

FAST PITCH AND MODIFIED PITCH MECHANICS

Set Position

Position yourself behind the catcher and slightly inside the inside corner of home plate so that your eyes are lined up slightly inside the inside corner and at the top of the strike zone. This position will be referred to as working the "SLOT." It allows the catcher free movement up and down without obstructing the umpire's view and enables you to see all of home plate and the batter's strike zone.

Your feet should be placed at least shoulder width apart with your inside foot (slot foot) slightly back. This is referred to as a "heel to toe" stance. It is important that you remain in balance and comfortable.

Prior to assuming the set position, the umpire should assume a ready position by properly placing the feet while waiting in a relaxed fully upright stance. The proper time to drop to the 'set' position is immediately after the pitcher separates the hands and starts the pitch, but prior to the release of the ball. The umpire should never be moving to the set position while the ball is in flight toward the plate. It is important to know one can set too early, as well as too late. The set position requires additional energy that should not be wasted. You may need that extra strength in later innings.

When assuming the set position, bend the knees while keeping the back as straight as possible with your weight distributed on the "balls of your feet". Shoulders should be square to the plate with your eyes on the ball. This is done by assuming a good "heel-toe" stance, and aligning your hips to the outside corner of the plate. This is referred to as "Good Pelvic Alignment" (GPA). Your eyes should be aligned at the top of the strike zone. By lining up slightly inside the inside corner and at the top of the strike zone, the umpire has given themselves the best possible look at the pitch. Always be able to see the plate and the batter's feet and hands.

The set position in fast pitch is much lower than slow pitch although remaining at the top of the strike zone. Eyes are usually at the batter's arm pits in a definite crouched position looking from slightly outside the strike zone through the entire strike zone.

In calling balls and strikes, it is generally accepted to bring the pitch down or up in the strike zone, and widen it out, making sure to give a good corner. The bench and spectators can see whether the pitch is too high or too low, however, they can not tell whether it passed over the plate.

DO NOT SET UP WITHIN THE PERIMETER OF THE STRIKE ZONE



SECTION 4 THE BASE UMPIRE

Technique on the Bases

The base umpire must concentrate on every pitch and be ready for any play. Watch for illegal pitches. Should a foul fly be hit in territory not adjacent to the plate, cover the fielder as closely as the base situation permits. The base umpire must remain alert these possibilities at all times. The umpire must always keep in mind that umpiring the plate or the bases demands complete concentration, undivided attention and full energies until the final out.

Be prepared for plays at all times and work for the best angle on all plays. Do not be caught off guard on a play and do not let the coach call the plays for you. On a close play, sell the call; but on a wide open play, a routine signal is all that is necessary.

Be prepared at all times. Think like a ball player should think, and you will not be surprised by certain plays. Whenever possible, make your decisions in the set position. Give a strong vocal call and visual signal after you know the runner is out or safe. This

will help your timing and eliminate the dreaded "out / safe" call. Follow the ball at all times; know where the ball is and who had it last.

If a ball is hit to the outfield and there appears to be trouble, go out on it. Fair / foul followed by catch / no catch should be your priorities on every batted ball, even with base runners on base(s). If a ball is hit out of the park, be sure you know where and when the ball left the playing field.

Decisions on Bases

The base umpire indicates decisions through simultaneous verbal and visual signals. Umpires signal SAFE when a runner has beaten a play. They punctuate a vigorous SAFE signal with a verbal SAFE call. In calling a runner out, the motion of the arm is combined with the word OUT.

As it is with the calling of balls and strikes, the volume of voice and force of gesture employed should fit the importance and closeness of the play. The base umpire's decisions may be classified as close or easy. A close decision deserves all the vocal force and power of gesture at hand. In the language of the trade, the umpire should let it out on a close play. An easy decision is given by hand for plays so obvious that 'the plays call themselves. The signal is merely an acknowledgment or announcement of the safe or out.

Attempted steals in fast pitch and slow pitch with stealing, attempted base stretching on hits, close force plays, most rundowns, almost all tag plays are close plays and the ruling should be rendered accordingly. Should an umpire, after appeal, rule a runner out, the sell out call is in order.

For fairly close force-plays, wide open tag plays, and run-downs, the easy decision call, with medium emphasis as to voice and gesture is called for. Keep full power in reserve for the really close ones.

The 'out-safe' or 'safe-out' calls are a result of poor timing. If you give it a slight hesitation and allow the mental image or 'instant replay' to take place, you will never have another 'out-safe' call in your career. HOLD IT—SELL IT! (You can't have good judgment without good timing. They go hand-in-hand.)

When a batter or runner is out by a wide margin a routine out is all that's needed.

A fielder failing to touch a base for a force out, failing to tag a runner sliding into the base, or missing a swipe tag requires a sell call.

(Fast Pitch, Men's Slow Pitch and Women's Open Slow Pitch with stealing) On attempts to pick runners off base, a routine signal may also be given, unless the play is close, when the sell out should be used.

Any time the base umpire turns their back to the infield on a fly ball or a possible trapped ball, the base umpire has the responsibility for the 'fair / foul' and 'catch / no-catch' decisions. A base umpire that goes out, must stay in the outfield and not drift back to the infield for a play on the bases. This could cause two umpires to make a call on the same play. Even if both calls are the same, it looks bad.

The proper angle on the play will have the ball, the base, the defensive player, and the offensive player in view. When watching the tag make sure the base is in view. In watching force outs, let the ball take you to the play then keep your eye on the base and watch for the ball to hit the glove. Make sure you know from where the ball is being thrown. Do not take your eyes off the fielder until the ball is released and **let the ball take you to the play**.

Hustle is an integral part of good base umpiring technique. In essence, it is the alert ap-

plication of the principles of good umpiring. Aimless running about is not hustle—at least, not productive hustle. The polished base umpire quickly finds the position for the best possible angle of the play, yet the umpire's whereabouts is overlooked by the spectators until the decision is rendered.

Base Calls

There are two basic calls an umpire MUST master before being considered a top notch umpire: 1) The force play, and 2) the tag play.

For the purpose of discussion, the force play at first base will be used to show the principles that apply to ALL force plays.

Force Play

As the fielder is getting into position to field the ground ball the base umpire should be moving into one of the recommended positions described earlier. As the fielder fields the ball, the umpire should stop (minimum of 18 feet from first base.) As the fielder releases the throw, then and only then does the umpire turn into the base. (Let the ball take you into the play... a play cannot be made without the ball.) At this time, the umpire should concentrate on the BASE, where a) the runner touches it, b) the first baseman is on it when the ball is caught, and c) the ball is not juggled by the fielder.

An important consideration for the umpire at this point is if proper positioning has been maintained (minimum of 18 feet from the base), while concentrating on the base, watch the runner coming down the line and at the same time actually see the ball being caught by the first baseman. A position too close to the base restricts the angle, closes the range of vision, and may cause the umpire to get caught in the action.

Sound is another element in making a decision. While concentrating on the base and allowing peripheral vision to aid us in seeing the play develop, the sound of the ball hitting the glove helps determine which arrived first, the ball or the player's foot hitting the base. Never take your eye off the ball or depend entirely on the sound of the ball hitting the glove for crowd noise could distract you or drown out the sound of the ball hitting the glove.

Umpires will make proper calls if they hesitate and allow a clear mental picture to develop before making a call.

Remember, we are talking about a hesitation and not a delay. At one time it was thought that any delay in an umpire making a decision was a weakness, it showed indecisiveness on the part of the umpire. This is not true. It shows that you are in control.

Consistent timing is necessary to aid in the acceptance of your calls. If you are quick on every call and then have an exaggerated hesitation on one particular call it will appear to the players and fans that you are undecided and guessing. Slow your timing down and don't make a call until the play is completed. Be consistent with your timing.

Once the umpire has observed the play to its completion, has made a slight hesitation and knows the outcome of the play, it is time to make the decision that will be made known by the out or safe signal.

It is important that we understand the basic elements and how they relate to each other. For example, we discussed the basic position, proper distance and how it relates to peripheral vision in setting up your timing. If you wind up in a position where you are smothering a force play (in too close) and you are concentrating on the bag, you may have to physically look up to see if the ball is caught and then look back down to see if the first

baseman comes down on the base, if there was an errant throw. While this is happening the runner may have already passed the base while you were looking up at the catch. If proper distance is maintained, peripheral vision will allow you to see the entire play, making your job considerably easier.

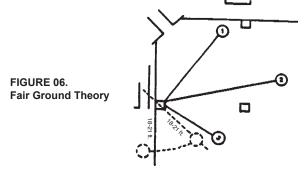
In Fast Pitch there are two basic positions for calling force plays at first base:

1. On all ground balls hit into the infield, the base umpire, while observing the ground ball, should move inside the diamond no more than a 45 degree angle from the foul line and no closer than the minimum starting distance. This position allows maximum use of peripheral vision, good timing and sound judgment. This also allows the umpire the ability to move to the foul line for a possible tag play. (Figure 06)

On a double play, take one or two steps parallel toward second base pushing off with the right foot then quickly run parallel down the line toward first base without taking your eyes off the ball. Let the flight of the ball turn your head to the play at first base.

The four basic elements an umpire should keep unobstructed as much as possible are:

- A. The base
- B. The ball
- C. The offense
- D. The defense



2. The 'foul ground theory' should be used only as an exception when you can't

get into fair territory. (Figure 07). Move no further than a line 45 degrees through first base. The outside position is very vulnerable. It should only be used in an extreme situation.

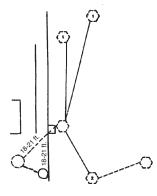


FIGURE 07. Foul Ground Theory

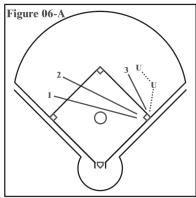
Stay outside the diamond in foul territory and move off the line to make the call. Move no further than an imaginary line drawn through the corners of first base.

Only on balls hit to the first baseman, the second baseman's extreme left or to the outfield where the throw is coming to the first baseman

This outside position should be used only when the play dictates.

Whenever possible, move inside the diamond, observing the defensive player fielding the ground ball, to a position not to exceed an imaginary line drawn through the corner of first base and at the same distance as you were positioned at the start of the pitch. Stop as the fielder fields the ball and let the throw turn you into the play.

FIGURE 06-A.
TWO UMPIRE SLOW PITCH SYSTEM
New system



In the TWO UMPIRE SLOW PITCH SYS-

TEM with no runners on base, the base umpire will start on the first base side of the second baseman. Some defensive positioning may require the umpire to start on the 2B side of the second baseman. On all ground balls hit to the infield, the base umpire should move parallel with the baseline toward first base. It is very important to move toward first base, to get to the same position that the base umpire would have reached had they started in foul territory.

On a double play, take one or two steps parallel toward second base then quickly run parallel down the line toward first base without taking your eyes off the ball. Let the flight of the ball turn your head into the play at first base.

The four basic elements an umpire should keep unobstructed as much as possible are:

- A. The base
- B. The ball
- C. The offense
- D. The defense

Tag Plays

Many of the same elements discussed on force plays apply to tag plays. For example: position, angle and peripheral vision. However, the major difference is in the fact that on tag plays we want you to complete the call with your nose right on the tag.

As the play develops, stay back, keep ALL the elements in front of you, the ball, the defense, the runner and the base, as well as the area where they all come together.

Now as the runner and the ball near that tag area, move in. Get about 10 to 12 feet and let the play carry you into the tag. Normally the best angle on tag plays is 90 degrees from the path of the runner just short of the base at the point of contact. (Figure 8a, 8b and 8c)

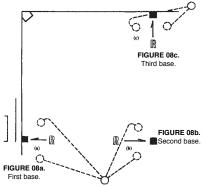
When we speak of unobstructed angle we mean never position yourself so that the defensive player or runner is between you and the actual tag. The angle of the play may change as the tag and slide are made. The umpire must also move with the play to keep an unobstructed view

Once you have allowed the play to develop, move in on the play, and concentrate on whether the tag was made prior to the runner reaching the base or the runner beat the tag to the base. If the runner is in before the tag, the play is over, providing the runner doesn't slide past the base. Hesitate slightly then make the SAFE call.

On the other hand, the out call is more critical. Nothing can be any more embarrassing than to have the tag beat the runner on a close play, have the umpire come up with a good strong OUT, only to have the ball roll out from under the pile.

If the tag is made prior to the runner reaching the base, hesitate, make certain the fielder has the ball, point at the ball with the left hand, and call OUT with the "overhand" out call, making certain you SELL IT.

On the same play where a good hard slide causes a collision and you CANNOT find the ball after the tag, in a good crisp voice ask to see the ball. Be sure to point at the defensive player with your left hand while you are moving around the play trying to find the ball. When you see the ball, make the call with a good sell signal. Remember to keep your head in the play. On tag plays, when necessary, it is very important to move around the play to see the tag and find the ball.



Pulled Foot

Quite often the play will dictate selling the call, for example, the pulled foot at first base. It might be obvious that the ball arrived in plenty of time to retire the runner, however, the first baseman pulled the foot off the base before the catch. In this case you should think in terms of priorities. You do NOT want anyone to think the runner was called safe because the runner beat the throw. You should think in terms of priorities, 1) move toward the play, 2) POINT WITH YOUR LEFT HAND at the base indicating that the fielder pulled the foot, followed by a strong verbal call and the proper "sell safe" signal. A routine 'safe' signal and nonchalantly pointing at the base will appear as though you 'blew' the call and are looking for an excuse. If you are in a position that you can not tell if there is a pulled foot, use the following theory; If the ball beat the runner, the runner is out. Then if you are not sure ask for help from the home plate umpire once all play has ended. ALWAYS MAKE THE CALL FIRST THEN GO FOR HELP IF NEEDED. If the runner beat the ball the runner is safe and there is no need for help.

Swipe Tag

Similarly with the play where an errant throw goes up the line toward home plate and the first baseman makes an excellent catch and 'swipe tags' the runner prior to reaching first base. Prioritize how the out was made.

1) Move up and toward the foul line in the direction of the play. This movement will give you a better view and help sell the call. If you have no doubt that the tag was made, point with the left hand, verbalize the tag call, followed by a strong 'sellout' signal. If you think the tag was missed, the point should be accompanied with a strong verbal call, fol-

lowed with a good 'sell safe' signal. After you make the call if you are not sure or you are asked for help and all play has ceased, go for help from the home plate umpire. Once you get help make the call. ALWAYS MAKE THE CALL FIRST THEN GO FOR HELP IF NEEDED.

Inside-Outside Theory

The inside-outside theory is simple, if the ball is hit inside the diamond, meaning at this point anything on the dirt infield, stay OUTSIDE the diamond. If the ball is hit anywhere outside the infield, move INSIDE the infield.

The purpose is equally as simple, ALL four elements are in front of you: The BASE, the BALL, the OFFENSE, and the DEFFENSE.

Button-Hook

The key to the inside-outside theory is movement and the key to movement regarding the inside-outside theory is the button-hook. The button-hook is a term used for the method of moving from outside the diamond to the inside. As you move toward the inside of the diamond (Figure 09) you should be concentrating on the runner(s) you are responsible for, making sure you do NOT interfere with anyone, checking for the tag of the base, obstruction or interference while glancing to pick up the ball in the outfield.

As you are moving inside the diamond, you should be: Watching the runner, glancing to pick up the ball, watching the runner, glancing to pick up the ball.

Once inside the diamond 10 to 12 feet, pivot (or button-hook) into the play, make sure the runner touches the base, check for obstruction and proceed with the play.

A proper button hook is 10 to 12 feet inside the diamond.

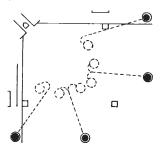


FIGURE 09. Button-hook.

Regardless if slow or fast pitch or two or three man system, these are areas you would move to when using the basic inside/outside theory.

Three-Foot Line

A violation of the three foot lane is an example of an **interference** call and calls for the umpire to take charge. The umpire should step into the play throwing arms high above the head shouting DEAD BALL. Step toward the point of **interference**, point at the spot of the **interference** with the left hand and give a strong overhand out signal. At this time the runners MUST be instructed to return to the last base legally touched at the time of the **interference**.

Running Out of the Base Line

Running out of the base line to avoid a tag is also a violation but does NOT result in a dead ball. The umpire should point with the left hand indicating that the runner violated the rule by running out of the base line and follow with a strong 'sell out' signal if needed. Other runners may continue to advance at their own risk and the umpire should react accordingly.

Interference

For interference calls, a strong dead ball signal should be given with a loud verbal call of DEAD BALL. It is important that you step in with authority and take charge. Halt any further play as soon as possible, as continued play simply adds to the confusion. Three things must always occur on an interference call: 1) The ball is dead, 2) an out is called, and 3) all runners must return to the base they occupied at the time of the interference.

Obstruction - Fake Tag

With the exception of some catcher's obstruction, obstruction calls require a delayed dead ball signal, allowing a runner played on or not played on the same ability to advance. The umpire will protect the runner only to the base the runner would have made had there not been obstruction. If the runner is played on prior to this base and the ball is in control of the defender, a dead ball is called and the award of base(s) made. If the runner advances beyond the base protected, and is tagged out, the out stands and the ball remains live.

It should also be clear that when saying "a runner cannot be called out between the two bases obstructed" does not pertain when another violation is being played upon. (e.g., a runner leaving second base too soon on a fly ball is returning after the ball is caught and is obstructed between second base and third base. If the runner would not have made it back to second base prior to the throw arriving, the runner would remain out. The same is true on a missed base).

Remember, if the umpire does not feel the runner would have advanced a base, the runner is returned to the previous base.

A fielder may not make a fake tag (a tag without a ball), on a runner advancing or returning to a base. This is a form of obstruction. The runner is awarded the base that would have been made had the fake tag not occurred. A fake tag could result in ejection.

If a catcher obstructs a batter by tipping the bat or holding his glove over home plate, the batter is awarded first base.

EXCEPTION: This is a delayed call and if the batter hits the ball, reaches first base safely and all other runners advance at least one base, the obstruction is ignored. It is also ignored if the above does not happen, and the offended team takes the result of the play.

Refer to the section on plate mechanics for further discussion on 'catcher obstruction' options and proper mechanics.

Collision

Simply because there is contact between the defensive and offensive player does not mean that obstruction or interference has occurred. This is definitely NOT the case.

The field is laid out in such a manner that it puts the defensive and offensive player on a collision course.

The right-handed batter, for example, who lays down a bunt in front of home plate is on a collision course with the catcher when running in a direct line to first base. Each player at this point is within legal rights—the batter taking a path in a direct line to first base and the catcher coming out from behind home plate to field the ball.

The questions that must be answered are:

- Did the batter alter their direction in any way drawing contact, in an attempt to receive an obstruction call?
- 2. Did the catcher alter the attempt to field the ball in any way so as to draw the interference?
- 3. Could the catcher actually make a play?

What adds to the confusion is the decision has to be made immediately. You don't have time to think about it—you have to react! That is why you have to have a thorough understanding of the situation so that a prompt evaluation and decision can be made, with authority and decisiveness.

Illegal Pitches

FAST PITCH: The base umpire should be aware of their illegal pitch responsibilities. The base umpire has the side view from first and third base and they are responsible for any action behind and in front of the pitching plate. That includes the feet on the pitching plate, front and back, as well as the crow hop and/or leap. It requires a delayed dead ball signal. Allow the play to continue and rule accordingly.

SLOW PITCH: The base umpire is responsible for contact with the pitching plate. It requires a delayed dead ball signal and allow the play to continue. Should the pitch be called a strike without a swing by the batter, the base umpire should step forward and notify the plate umpire that an illegal pitch was called, awarding a ball to the batter. Should the batter swing at the pitch, the illegal pitch is nullified.

BASIC SAFE AND OUT SIGNALS

The importance of properly executed signals cannot be understated and should not be taken lightly. Proper signals are the umpire's 'life line' of effective communication for, the ball players, spectators, and their partner(s). Signals were not designed for the players directly involved in the play, but for the players and fans in the outlying areas where sound alone is not effective.

Proper signals should be dignified, informative and meaningful. Poorly executed signals serve only to cause confusion and reflect a lack of pride on the part of the umpire. With this thought in mind, it is easy to understand the ASA's militarized approach to clear distinct signals and effective communication.

The base umpire indicates decisions by a simultaneous verbal and visual expression. As it is with calling balls and strikes, the volume of voice and force of gesture employed should fit the importance and closeness of the play.

Prior to making a call the umpire should find the best possible position to see all the elements of the play. The proper angle is achieved by placing the body in a "squared up" position with your face, shoulders, body and feet facing the play.

Routine OUT Signal

Move to a proper angle assuming a comfortable position with your feet approximately shoulder width apart.

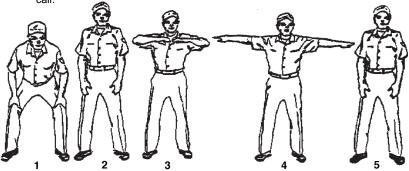
- 1. Move to a set position with your hands approximately waist high.
- 2. With your weight on the balls of the feet, your head straight forward and in an upright position without moving your feet, keep your eyes straight forward.
- 3. Bring your left hand to your body, just above your belt.
- 4. Raise your right hand to a 90 degree HAMMER position. The "hammer" should be made with the forearm and upper-arm forming a 90 degree right angle with the elbow slightly forward and the fist facing your ear. With peripheral vision you should be able to see your elbow out of the corner of your eye.



Routine SAFE Signal

Move to a proper angle assuming a comfortable position with your feet approximately shoulder width apart.

- 1. Move to a set position with your hands approximately waist high.
- 2. With your weight on the balls of the feet, your head straight forward and in an upright position without moving your feet, keep your eyes on the play.
- 3. Bring both hands up to your chest about shoulder height.
- Give a brisk verbal call, SAFE, while fully extending your arms horizontally, parallel
 with the ground and your palms down. Again, keep your eyes on the play until the
 play is complete, unless you need to move to another position for a succeeding
 call.



Selling the Call...Sell OUT/Sell SAFE

Basic safe and out mechanics will soon become routine. A tougher task is selling the call. When called upon, you must reach back and come up with all the physical and verbal emphasis available. The most accepted and commonly used call in this situation is the overhand out call.

The overhand out call starts like every out-safe call, from the basic stance. Stand in proper position with your hands approximately waist high, weight forward, slightly bent at the knees and allowing for the play to be completed. Once you have given it a slight



hesitation, come up to a standing position as you take a step with your left foot moving directly at the play. As you are raising your right arm with an open hand above your head and into a throwing position, you should step with the left foot and shuffle your right foot, crossing behind your left foot much like a shortstop shuffles his feet to make a good strong throw to first base. Plant your right foot and push while stepping closer to the play with the left foot as you bring your right arm over the top of your head in a throwing motion with a closed fist giving a strong verbal 'OOOUUUTTT' call. Finish up by transferring the weight to the left foot while bringing the right foot forward and parallel to the left and with both feet about shoulder width apart. The throwing motion of the right arm should conclude by returning to the knees as you started. Remember, your movement should always take you closer and directly at the play. When you finish selling the call, you'll be standing right on top of the play.

A left handed umpire is permitted to utilize their left hand and arm to make the overhand out signal as this is a natural movement for the umpire.

Caution should be exercised to keep from interfering with a player attempting to make a play at another base. Watch the ball so you can move out of the player's way and get in position for your next responsibility.

To sell a safe call, the same safe signal is used with a louder, more emphatic voice. To be more emphatic with your actions, take a short controlled step toward the base and bend at the knees to make it look as if you are closer to the play. Eyes should remain looking at the base.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Preparation and Techniques Prior to the Pitch

The base umpire should maintain a comfortable position and remain alert at all times. Arms should not be folded in front of the body as this gives the appearance that you are bored with the game.

The umpire should prepare for all possibilities by being a student of the game and thinking like a player should think:

What's the Game situations?

How many outs?
Any runners?
What inning?
Closeness of score?

What does the game situation dictate?

Sacrifice? (Fast Pitch) Steal? (Fast Pitch) Hit and run? (Fast Pitch)

Study the ball players and their trends.

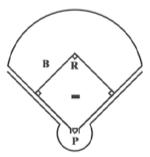
Late swingers? 'Pull' hitters? 'Slap' hitters?



In fast pitch, is the pitcher overpowering or do they throw off speed? How are they pitching the batter: (Fast Pitch) down and away, or up and in or (Slow Pitch) high arc or flat pitch?

(Fast Pitch) Are there any defensive shifts or (Slow Pitch) are they using an extra infielder?

These are questions an umpire should constantly ask to stay alert and be at the right place at the right time. A good 'feel for the game' is a necessity.



HELPFUL HINTS FOR BASE UMPIRES

- HUSTLE.
- When stationed on the line at first or third base, the umpire should stand 18 to 21 feet beyond the base and in foul territory and deeper than the first or third baseman in a normal defensive position.
- 3. Move on all pitched, batted and thrown balls.
- Call all your plays in fair territory except in the rare case when the play forces
 you into foul territory.
- 5. On a double play, A) take one or two steps toward second base b) quickly move parallel to the base line. Keep your head and eyes on the ball while your feet take your body toward first base, C) let the flight of the ball turn your head and body into the play at first base D) stop in the set position before all elements of the play come together and make the call at first base with a strong signal.
- 6. Don't make a call until the catch or play is completed.
- 7. Always keep your eyes on the ball.
- 8. Don't let players or coaches call plays for you.
- Check to make certain the bases are secured and keep the pitcher's plate clean.
- With no runners on base, walk the line and be ready to react on every pitch.
- 11. Do not make an emphatic call on obvious out, safe, fair or foul calls.
- 12. A 'safe' signal or verbal call is not necessary when the thrown ball gets by the defensive player.
- 13. Do not help or console an injured player; if someone is hurt, walk away and let the manager handle it.
- 14. Line-up runners on all fly balls to the outfield, as outlined in tag-up procedures in this manual.
- 15. Slow up runners if needed when the ball is declared foul or dead.
- 16. Keep the game moving.
- 17. Be on top of your plays and hustle.
- 18. Take positions that will keep you out of the player's way. Check with the fielders every time you move to see that you are not obstructing their view.
- 19. Hustle out on fly balls and stay out until play is completed. Continue to observe the play from your position in the outfield.
- 20. Hustle from one position to another, the ball players will follow your example.
- 21. Make your close calls with a lot of voice and enthusiasm.
- 22. When a base umpire is at second base, be aware what fielder will take a throw for a force out or the tag at second base.
- Any time there are runners on base, base umpires should be in a ready position.
- 24. In the three-umpire system, the first base umpire should not automatically rotate home if there is a possible play at first base. Go to a holding zone at the beginning of the three foot line extension.
- 25. Avoid touching balls thrown to you by the defensive team, as there may not be three outs.

SECTION 5 UMPIRE SYSTEMS

The One Umpire System is being used in many areas of the nation today, mostly in slow pitch. It is not recommended and should be used only when necessity demands. Most softball authorities believe that when only one umpire is assigned to a game, the best location for the umpire prior to each pitch is behind home plate.

Single umpiring is a difficult job that takes a tremendous amount of hustle, alertness and keen anticipation.

The umpires starting position for each pitch should be from behind home plate. This is the best position for calling balls and strikes, and fair and foul balls. It also enables the umpire to have a clear view of the complete playing field.

On each batted ball or play that develops, the umpire must move from behind the plate and into the infield to obtain the best position possible for any play that develops. A key to help anticipate the play is to watch the feet of the outfielder making a throw, as fielders will step in the direction the throw will be made.

It's important to keep your eye on the ball, this is especially important when umpiring alone. In some situations, this is almost impossible. The umpire must make the call and still see if the runner coming home touched the plate before the out was made. When this happens there is the possibility of the ball being dropped or bobbled on the tag. As soon as it is determined whether the runner scored or not, turn back to the tag play to be sure the ball was retained by the fielder.

Try to position yourself as close as possible on all play situations, especially tag plays. With no other runners on base, make sure all calls are made from inside the diamond. If there is a play at home plate, position yourself near the back of the right hand batter's box at a 90 degree angle to the runner. Then adjust your position to allow a follow up secondary position. It is important to get close to the play to obtain the best angle and be able to see the ball, base and runner. Not only is this important to make the calls, but also to watch runners tag the bases.

On situations where a call is made at a base and a subsequent play develops at another base, make sure you watch the ball so as not to be hit with a thrown ball.

Movement to cover the other bases is based on judgment. HUSTLE to the best position possible to make a call. If the ball is live when a runner is on base, such as after a base hit, the umpire should call TIME when the ball is held by a player in the infield area and in the umpire's opinion, all play has ceased.

There is no excuse for calling a play from behind or just in front of the plate. In the following diagrams, the umpire is designated as "P":

Position:		Situation:	
A.	Ground ball	No runners on	$\langle \wedge \rangle$
B.	Ground ball	Runner on first base or runners on first and second base	To A
C.	Ground ball hit to the infield	Bases loaded	(C) P

ONE UMPIRE

Fly Ball Situation

- A. No runners—fly ball to the infield or outfield and not near the foul line.
- B. Runners on first base.
- C. Runners on first and second or second only, move to a possible call at third or to foul territory ahead of the lead runner for a possible play at home if necessary after the catch.
- D. Runner on second and third or first and third.

NOTE: On all fly ball situations where the ball is near the foul line, the umpire must stay on the foul line to determine whether the ball is fair or foul—then move into the infield to pick up runners and plays.

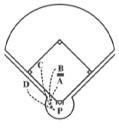
No Runner on Base Situation

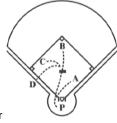
- No runners—single.
- B. No runners—double.
- C. No runners—triple.
- D No runners—home run

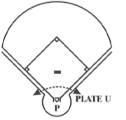
NOTE: On all base hit situations, umpire must watch runner tag bases and be aware of position of the ball.

Between Inning Mechanics

Assume a position approximately 15 feet from home plate, near the line in foul territory and facing the infield. Alternate foul lines according to the following policy: Take a position on the foul line that is on the side of the field that the team coming off the field







TWO-UMPIRE SYSTEM

The Two-Umpire System is now standard for most leagues. With its use, ninety percent of the situations that will ordinarily arise may be adequately covered. Two umpires, working as a team for any period of time, can cover their plays with ease, be in the right place at the right time, and perform mechanics so smoothly that players and spectators are unconscious of their presence until the play has been made.

The PLATE UMPIRE should be prepared to take a share of the base plays. The lead runner, if there is more than one on the bases, is the plate umpire's responsibility. To do the job properly, the plate umpire must go to a holding zone in foul territory between home and third base, then immediately pick up the lead runner, and prepare to make

the call on the runner, whether it is at third base or the plate. If there are two runners on base and the next batter hits for extra bases which will score the lead runner without a play, the plate umpire pays little attention other than noting that the runner touched third base and the plate. Attention then is directed to the second runner and the play that may be made. The BASE UMPIRE meanwhile ascertains that all runners touch second and first bases and takes whatever plays are made on the batter-runner. If the batter-runner advances as far as third on the hit, and a play is made, it is the base umpire's call. If this is the third out of the inning, the base umpire quickly and vociferously makes the call, so that the plate umpire may announce whether a runner scoring on the same play has touched home before the third out is made.

The proper position for the BASE UMPIRE to assume at the start of the game is down the right field foul line in foul territory about 18-21 feet beyond first base and at least a step back of where the first baseman is positioned. One step, because this clears the umpire of any quick lunge by the first baseman for a drive down the foul line. If the umpire stands in line with the fielder, the fielder may have to slow his charge to prevent colliding with the umpire. Movement to the infield and proper positioning are covered under SECTION 4—The Base Umpire. The base umpire is responsible for making the Fair / Foul, Catch / No-Catch call when going out on fly balls, and the plate umpire will pick up all runners - both tagging up and touching bases.

There are four times a base umpire will make a call at third base:

- 1. On the batter-runner on a triple with no runners on base.
- On the last runner into third base.
- 3. On a lone runner on fly ball advancement.
- 4. On any return throw from the plate area or a cut-off by a player.

Each umpire has equal authority to call leaving a base too soon on the pitch. Be in position to make the call. The BASE UMPIRE should observe the pitcher (Fast Pitch) and home plate (Slow Pitch) out of the corner of his eye as they watch the runner. Use common sense and think the game. In fast pitch, if more than one runner is on base, which runner is logical to make a steal attempt? Observe that runner closer than the other runner(s). Do not guess a runner out. Be sure the runner actually left the base too soon.

Fly Ball Tag-Up Responsibilities

Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch

THE PLATE UMPIRE has tag responsibilities under the following situations:

- All runners at third base.
- The runner at second base with runners at first and second base.

THE BASE UMPIRE has tag responsibilities under the following situations:

- 1 All runners at first base
- The runner at second base with runners at second and third bases or second base only.
- 3. Runners at first and second base when the bases are full.

NOTE: These tag-up procedures should be followed at all times, UNLESS there is COMMUNICATION between both umpires. These responsibilities are covered in the duties listed on the following pages.

Positioning and Coverage - General

Initial positioning with runners on base is described on the following pages. When mechanics dealing with each situation differ, they will be covered individually, however, there are several basic responsibilities which will not be duplicated.

The PLATE UMPIRE will call all balls hit fair and/or foul. The plate umpire will move out and up the foul line to make these calls, remembering not to make the call too quickly.

The PLATE UMPIRE should always be alert and move to a position to help your partner in case of a run down.

If the BASE UMPIRE goes to the outfield for catch / no catch situations, or goes out on a ball hit close to the foul line, once the base umpire's back is turned, the calls will be the BASE UMPIRE'S. The PLATE UMPIRE must move into the infield and revert to the one umpire system, covering all bases.

On routine fly balls to the outfield, the BASE UMPIRE will move inside the diamond, watching the assigned runner tag-ups listed above. The BASE UMPIRE follows the Inside-Outside Theory on all batted balls. This was described under the Base Umpire section of the manual.

In fast pitch and slow pitch with stealing, the BASE UMPIRE must be alert for snap throws and a possible pick-off of each base-runner.

BOTH UMPIRES must 1) hustle at all times, 2) keep their eyes on the ball and 3) be in the correct position on all calls. The following responsibilities deal with the individual situation.

REMEMBER, ANY TIME YOU ARE FORCED TO DEVIATE, COMMUNICATE. Key to Diagrams: P—Plate Umpire; B—Base Umpire; R—Runner or Runners.

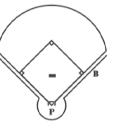
No Runners on Base - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

- On ground balls hit close to the foul line, stay at home plate on the line and make the call.
- On infield hits, move up the first base line observing the play, and be prepared to help your partner.
- 3. Refer to the PLATE UMPIRE SECTION.

BASE UMPIRE:

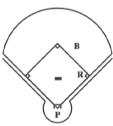
- Basic position is 18 to 21 feet beyond first base in foul territory.
- Responsible for the batter-runner all the way to third base.
- Refer to BASE UMPIRE SECTION.



Runner on First Base Only - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

- On batted balls to the infield leave to the left of the catcher moving up the first base line to observe the play, then move toward third base to cover the advancing runner.
- On steals where there is a wild throw at second base, pick up the runner advancing to third base, and be prepared to take the runner home.
- 3. Refer to the PLATE UMPIRE SECTION.



BASE UMPIRE:

- Take a position about halfway between first and second base and outside the base line. This position will normally place the umpire two or three steps behind and to the first base side of the second baseman.
- 2. If the runner attempts to steal second, move toward the base staying behind the fielder. Should the throw be wild, move inside the base path.
- On base hits to the outfield, immediately come inside the diamond, button hook and take the batter-runner all the way to third base.
- 4. On a double play, take one or two steps toward second base, follow the flight of the ball and move toward first base as the ball takes you into the play.
- Has tag-up responsibility for runner at first base, and takes single runner all the way to third base after the catch.
- 6. Refer to the BASE UMPIRE SECTION.

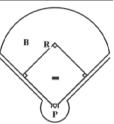
Runner on Second Base Only - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

- On hits, move toward third base. Be ready and in position to make a call by going down the left field foul line in foul ground. When you are about one third of the way from third base, quickly move into the infield for a good position to make the call.
- 2. If the first play is at first base, and there is a throw to third, the plate umpire has the call at third.
- 3. Refer to the PLATE UMPIRE SECTION.



- Take a position about two steps behind and to the second base side of the shortstop. Be cautious not to interfere with any outfielder's view of the batter or a play by the infielders.
- On any ball hit to the infield, take the first throw unless it is to home plate. If the first throw is to first base, second base, or third base, any subsequent throw to third base is covered by the plate umpire.



- On all balls hit through the infield or to the outfield that you do not go out on, immediately come inside the diamond, button hook and take the batter-runner all the way to third base.
- 4. On routine fly balls to the outfield, move into the infield to a position between the pitcher's plate and the base line. You are responsible for the tag-up of the runner, and after the ball is caught, take the runner into third base.
- 5. Take the batter-runner to third base, watching that they touch all bases. When the ball is in the outfield, take a position deep enough in the infield to allow movement for a play at either base.
- 6. On an attempted steal of third, move toward third base and be prepared for a call.

 Movement should be parallel to the baseline between second and third base.
- 7. Refer to the BASE UMPIRE SECTION.

Runner on Third Base Only - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

- 1. If a fly ball is hit, move from behind home plate and line up the runner on third base and watch the tag-up.
- On base hits move toward third base watching the runner. If the runner goes home, drift back toward home and watch the runner touch home plate.
- Refer to the PLATE UMPIRE SECTION.

BASE UMPIRE:

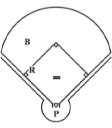
- Take a position about two steps behind and to the third base side of the shortstop. Be cautious so as not to interfere with any outfielder's view of the batter or a play by the infielders.
- 2. If a ball is hit to the infield, wait until the fielder commits, then move quickly toward that base. Don't take your eyes off the ball.
- 3. Call all plays made on the first throw by an infielder unless it is to home plate. Take the batter-runner into third base and see that all bases are touched.
- Refer to BASE UMPIRE SECTION.

Runners on First and Second Base - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

 On base hits take the lead runner into third base and home. On steals where there is a wild throw at second base pick up the runner coming into third base.

- Be ready and in position to make a call at third base by going down the left field line in foul ground. When you are about one third of the way from third base quickly move into the infield for a good position on the tag play.
- On hits move toward third base. If the lead runner comes home and there is no play made, drift toward third but watch the runner touch home plate.



В

- 4. Responsible for tag-up at second base.
- Refer to PLATE UMPIRE SECTION.

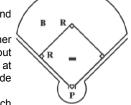
BASE UMPIRE:

- Take a position about two steps behind and to the second base side of the shortstop. Be cautious so as not to interfere with any outfielder's view of the batter or a play by the infielders.
- On any ball hit to the infield, take the first throw unless it is to home plate. If the first throw is to first, second, or third base, any subsequent throw to third base is covered by the plate umpire.
- If the runner attempts to steal third, move toward the base to make the call. Movement should be parallel to the baseline between second and third base.
- On routine fly balls to outfield, move into the infield to a position between the
 pitcher's plate and the base line. You are responsible for the tag-up of the runner
 on first.
- See that the runner and batter touch second and first base. When the ball is in the outfield, take a position deep enough in the infield to allow you to move for a play at either base.
- 6 Refer to BASE UMPIRE SECTION

Runners on Second and Third Base - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

- If a fly ball is hit, line up the runner on third base and watch the tag-up.
- On base hits move toward third base. If the lead runner comes home and there is no play, drift toward third but watch the runner touch home plate. If there is a play at home, move back to a position in the rear and left side of the right-handed batter's box.



- If the play is at first base, watch the lead runner touch home plate, and then go to third for a possible play on the second runner.
- 4 Refer to PLATE UMPIRE SECTION

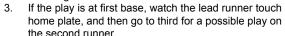
BASE UMPIRE:

- Take a position about two steps behind and to the third base side of the shortstop. Be careful not to interfere with any outfielder's view of the batter or a play by the infielders.
- On a ball hit to the infield, take the first throw unless it is to home. If the first throw is to first, second, or third base, any subsequent throw to third is covered by the plate umpire.
- On fly balls, move inside the diamond quickly, button hook and line up the runner on second base and take the runner to third base after the catch.
- On all balls hit through the infield or to the outfield that you do not go out on, immediately come inside the diamond, button hook and take the batter-runner all the way to third base.
- Refer to BASE UMPIRE SECTION.

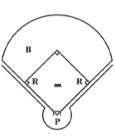
Runners on First and Third Base - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

- 1. If a fly ball is hit, move from behind home plate and line up the runner on third base and watch the tag-up.
- On base hits move toward third base. If the lead runner comes home and there is no play, drift toward third but watch the runner touch home plate. If there is a play at home, move back to a position in the rear and left side of the right-hand batter's box.







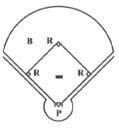
BASE UMPIRE:

- Take a position about two steps behind and to the third base side of the shortstop. Be careful not to interfere with any outfielder's view of the batter or a play by the infielders
- 2. On any ball hit to the infield, take the first throw unless it is to home plate. If the first throw is to first, second, or third base, any subsequent throw to third base is covered by the plate umpire.
- 3. If a ball is hit to the infield wait until the fielder commits then move quickly toward that base. Keep your eyes on the ball.
- 4. On a base hit move inside the diamond quickly and watch the runner on first touch second base and be alert for a play at that base, take the batter-runner as far as third base and watch that each base is touched.
- On fly balls, get inside the diamond quickly, button hook and line up the runner on first base. After checking the runner tag-up at first base, be prepared to take the runner into second base and/or third base
- Refer to BASE UMPIRE SECTION.

Bases Loaded - Fast Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

- 1. If a fly ball is hit, move from behind home plate, line up the runner on third base and watch the tag-up.
- On base hits move toward third base in foul territory. If the lead runner comes home and there is no play, drift toward third and watch the runner touch home plate. If there is a play at home plate, move back to a position at the rear and left side of the right-hand batter's box.
- If the play is at first base, watch the lead runner touch home plate, and then go to third for a possible play on the second runner.
- 4. Refer to PLATE UMPIRE SECTION.



BASE UMPIRE:

- Take a position about two steps behind and to the third base side of the shortstop. Be careful not to interfere with any outfielder's view of the batter or a play by the infielders
- 2 On any ball hit to the infield, take the first throw unless it is to home plate. If the first throw is to first, second, or third base, any subsequent throw to third base is covered by the plate umpire.
- If a ball is hit to the infield wait until the fielder commits, then move quickly toward 3. that base. Keep your eyes on the ball.
- 4. On any ball hit to the outfield move inside the diamond quickly, button hook and be prepared to make a call at first, second or third base.
- 5. On fly balls, move inside the diamond quickly, to take tag-ups of runners on first and second base, and be prepared for any play into second base.
- 6. Refer to BASE UMPIRE SECTION

Two Umpire System - Slow Pitch

PLATE UMPIRE:

B.

The plate umpire has the same responsibilities as in Fast Pitch with the following few exceptions. In Slow Pitch the plate umpire is responsible:

- Α. For all calls on a pitched ball once it leaves the pitchers hand.
- For all fair and foul balls. C. For batter- runner infractions.
- For coverage at third base on any steal or pick-off. D.
- F For all calls at home plate and third base with the exception of the following situations:
- 1. The base umpire is responsible for the batter-runner or the last runner all the way to third base.
- The base umpire is responsible for a lone runner on a tag-up all the way to third 2
- 3. When there is a play at home plate and a subsequent play at third, the base umpire is responsible for the second play in the infield, no matter at what base the play is made.

BASE UMPIRE:

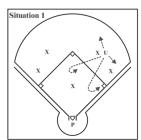
- Α. If the base umpire does not go out on a fly ball, they are responsible for all calls at first and second base.
- B. For the batter-runner or the last runner all the way to third base.
- C. For a lone runner on a tag-up and advancement on a fly ball all the way to third
- D When there is a throw to home plate and a cut-off or subsequent play, no matter what base.
- E. With a runner on base, the base umpire will take a position normally behind the second baseman, and to the player's right. Under no circumstance shall the base umpire take a position inside the base path or on the shortstop side of second base

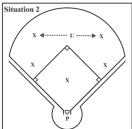
F. Positioning:

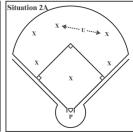
No runners on base.

The base umpire should be off and to the first base side of the second baseman. On all ground balls hit to the infield that turn into a force play at first base, the umpire should move parallel with the baseline toward first base. The base umpire should try to reach the same position they would have reached had they started in foul territory. (See figure 06-A)

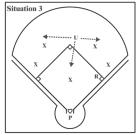
With runners on second, second and third or bases loaded in some divisions of play, the infielders play very deep making it difficult to button-hook inside ahead of the runner. Should the base umpire be positioned behind the second baseman when the second baseman and shortstop are playing very deep, the base umpire should find a position on an imaginary line directly between the two infielders toward second base. When the ball stays in the infield and there is a force play at first base, it is imperative that the umpire move in that direction to make the call. (Situation 2)



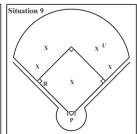




Also in some divisions of play, teams are bringing an outfielder closer to the infield to play behind second base (fifth infielder). If this occurs and all infielders are playing very deep, the imaginary line should be from the second baseman to the defensive player positioned behind second base. (Situation 3)







- 3 Runner on first base
- 4 Runners on first and second bases

- Runners on first and third bases.
- 6. Runners on second and third bases.
- 7. Runners on first, second and third bases. (Situations 4-8) The base umpire's position will be the same. If the second baseman is playing in a normal position, the base umpire should be off and to the second base side of the second baseman. If the second baseman is playing very deep, the base umpire should take a position as indicated in situation 2 above. (Diagram 06-A). This also applies in divisions that allow base stealing.
- 8. Runner on third base only. (Situation 9) The base umpire should be off of the second baseman on the first base side. If the fielders are playing very deep, take a position indicated in Situation 2. In divisions where stealing is allowed the base umpire should be stationed on the second base side of the second baseman.

THREE-UMPIRE SYSTEM FAST PITCH AND SLOW PITCH

The three-umpire system, when executed properly, is not only the most enjoyable system of umpiring, but also assures a complete coverage of everything that may occur on the ball field. Because it entails a 50 percent addition to the two umpire officiating expense, it may never replace the two-umpire system.

The two-umpire system provides adequate coverage for all but a small proportion of the situations that may arise, but the three umpire system, when properly executed, insures the undivided attention of one umpire on every play and at each base.

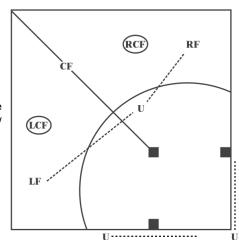
At the start of the play, the BASE UMPIRES assume positions outside the base lines about 18 to 21 feet behind first and third base. The PLATE UMPIRE judges batted balls, foul / fair as per the section on this mechanic. The BASE UMPIRES should only help the plate umpire on these decisions when they turn their back to the infield and go out on a ball hit near the fence or on a sinking line drive.

There are four basic rules governing the coverage of the three-umpire system:

- 1. Rotation for the three-umpire system is always clockwise.
- 2. When a BASE UMPIRE turns their back to the infield to go to the outfield on a play, the umpire should remain outside until the play has been completed.
- When an umpire goes to the outfield, the crew reverts to the two-umpire system.
- When the umpires start the basic position from a counter rotated position, there
 will be no rotation.

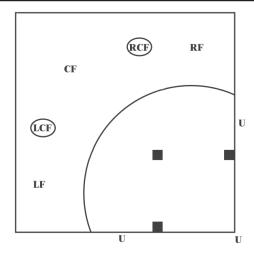
The counter rotated position is the basic position prior to any pitch when the third base umpire is down the line at third base and the first base umpire assumes a position behind the second baseman.

Throughout this section we have stated the desired positions for base umpires. These are guides, not rigid rules. Situations arise whereby your position will have to vary from play to play. Each umpire should select the position that permits the best coverage of play, yet does not interfere with the play.



NOTE: Fly ball coverage will be the same for fast pitch and slow pitch.

No Runners on Base



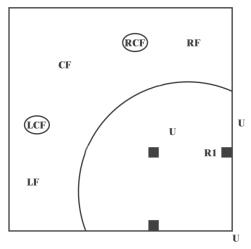
Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

- **P:** Trail batter-runner toward first base. If the first base umpire goes out, assist in watching the batter-runner touch first base. Return to home in foul ground for any possible play at home plate.
- 1st: Go out on all fly balls hit between center field and right field in fast pitch and right-center field and right field in slow pitch. If the third base umpire goes out on a fly ball, move inside the diamond, button-hook and take the runner to third base.
- 3rd: Go out on all fly balls between center field and left field in fast pitch and left-center field and left field in slow pitch. If the first base umpire goes out on a fly ball, move inside the diamond and take the runner to third base.

Base Hit to Outfield

- **P:** Trail the batter-runner toward first base. Release toward third base for a possible call. Look toward home plate to make sure the first base umpire is there for the play.
- **1st:** Move inside the diamond, button-hook and glance to second to make sure the third base umpire is there. Release, move into foul territory and go to home plate for any play at home. Be positioned on the right hand batter's box side of home plate.
- 3RD. Move inside the diamond toward second base for any play. Glance to third to make sure the plate umpire is there for the play.

Runner on First Base Only



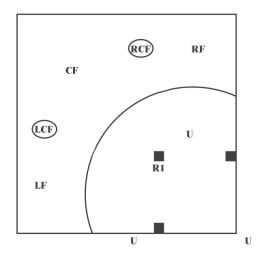
Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

- **P:** Trail the batter-runner toward first base. Be prepared to take the lead runner to third if ball is dropped. Take all plays at home plate. Responsible for fly balls to left field, when LF is going toward the foul line.
- **1st:** Move inside the diamond and take tag-up at first base. Be positioned for calls at first base and second base. Take the last runner to third base. Responsible for fly balls to right field when RF is going toward the foul line.
- **3rd:** Be positioned at second base. Take all fly balls between right field and left field, UNLESS EITHER outfielder is going toward the foul line. When first base umpire takes fly ball, move inside the diamond for tag-up at first base.

Base Hit to Outfield

- **P:** Trail the batter-runner toward first base, release and go to third base to get positioned for any calls at third base.
- **1st:** Move inside the diamond, watch the batter-runner touch first base, release to foul ground, and rotate to home for any calls at home plate. Be positioned on the right hand batter's box side of home plate.
- **3rd:** Be positioned at second base. Move inside the diamond for any play at second base. Be alert for any possible plays at first base.

Runner on Second Base Only



Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

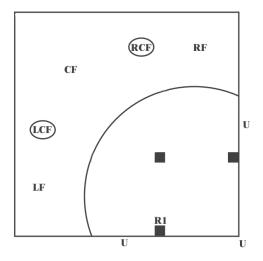
- **P:** Hustle toward third base in foul ground. Be prepared to take the plays into third base and home plate. Responsible for fly balls hit to right field, when RF is going toward the foul line.
- 1st: Be positioned at second base shading the runner. Take all fly balls to right field and left field, UNLESS EITHER outfielder is going toward the foul line. When the PLATE umpire or the THIRD base umpire takes the fly ball, move inside the diamond and take the tag-up at second base. Take the last runner to third base.
- 3rd: Hustle into the diamond for the tag-up at second base. Be prepared for plays at second base. Take the last runner to third base. Responsible for fly balls to left field when LF is going toward the foul line.

Balls Hit to Outfield

(No rotation when first base umpire positioned at second base.)

- **P:** Move from behind home plate and get in position for any play at home plate.
- **1st:** Be positioned at second base shading the runner. Move inside the diamond and be prepared to take any plays at first base or second base.
- 3rd: Move inside the diamond and take plays at third base.

Runner on Third Base Only



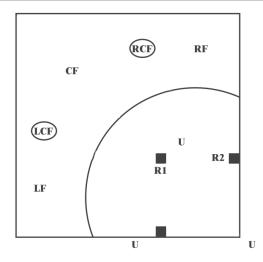
Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

- **P:** Move from behind home plate in foul ground. Take the tag-up at third base. Be alert for any possible plays at third base or home plate.
- **1st:** Take all fly balls between center field and the right field line. If the third base umpire goes out, move inside and take the batter-runner to third base.
- 3rd: Take all fly balls between center field and the left field line. If the first base umpire goes out, hustle into the diamond to watch the batter-runner touch first base. Be alert for any possible plays at second base or first base. Take the batter-runner into third base.

Base Hit to Outfield

- **P:** Move from behind home plate in foul ground. After watching the runner from third touch home plate, release and go to third base to get a position inside the diamond for any possible calls at third base. Look to home plate to make sure first base umpire has moved to home plate.
- 1st: Move inside the diamond and watch the batter-runner touch first base. Release to foul ground after checking to see that third base umpire is at second base. Hustle to home for any plays at home plate. Be positioned on the right hand batter's box side of home plate.
- <u>3rd:</u> Move inside the diamond for any possible play at second base. Look to third base to see that the plate umpire has moved there.

Runners on First and Second Base



Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

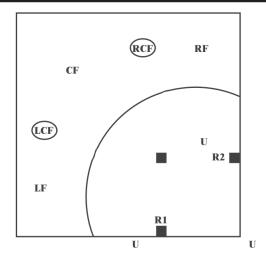
- P: Hustle toward third base in foul ground, hold and take the tag-p at second base. Be prepared to take plays at third base and home plate. Responsible for fly balls to right field, when RF is going toward the foul line.
- **1st:** Be positioned at second base shading the lead runner. Take all fly balls between right field and left field, UNLESS EITHER outfielder is going toward the foul line. When the PLATE umpire or THIRD base umpire takes the fly ball, move inside the diamond and take the tag- up at first base. Take the last runner to third base.
- 3rd: Hustle into the diamond for the tag-up at first base. Take calls at first base or second base and the last runner to third base. Responsible for fly balls to left field when LF is going toward the foul line or the tag- up at second base if the Plate umpire has fly ball coverage to right field.

Base Hit to Outfield

(No rotation when first base umpire is positioned at second base)

- **P:** Move from behind home plate and get ready for any play at home plate.
- **1st:** Be positioned at second base shading the lead runner. Move inside the diamond and be prepared to take plays at second base or first base.
- 3rd: Move inside the diamond for any play at third base.

Runners on First and Third Base



Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

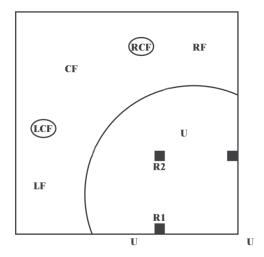
- P: Hustle toward third base in foul ground and take the tag-up at third base. when the First base or the Third Base umpire goes out on a fly ball. Be prepared for any play at home plate. Release toward third base after the runner touches home plate, if the batter-runner becomes a runner. Responsible for fly balls to right field, when RF is going toward the foul line. Be alert for a possible play at home plate.
- **1st:** Be positioned at second base shading the runner at first base. Take all fly balls between right field and left field, UNLESS EITHER outfielder is going toward the foul line. When the third base umpire takes the fly ball, move inside the diamond for the tag up at first base. Take the last runner to third base.
- 3rd: Hustle into the diamond and take the tag-up at first base. If the First base umpire goes out on a fly ball, take calls at first base or second base and the last runner to third base. Responsible for fly balls to left field when LF is going toward the foul line.

Base Hit to Outfield

(No rotation when the first base umpire positioned at second base.)

- **P:** Move from behind home plate and be positioned for any play at home.
- 1st: Be positioned at second base shading the runner at first base. Move inside the diamond and be prepared to take plays at first base or second base.
- 3rd: Move inside the diamond for any play at third base.

Runners on Second and Third Base



Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

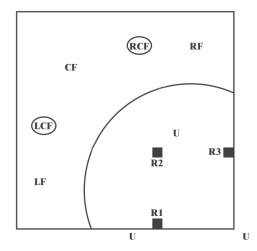
- P: Hustle toward third base in foul ground, hold and take the tag-up at third base. Be prepared to take the play at home plate and any possible play at third base if the batter-runner becomes a runner. Responsible for fly balls to right field when RF is going toward the foul line.
- 1st: Be positioned at second base shading the runner a second base. Take all fly balls between right field and left field, UNLESS EITHER outfielder is going toward the foul line. When the PLATE umpire or THIRD base umpire takes the fly ball, move inside the diamond and take the tag-up at second base. Take the last runner into third base.
- 3rd: Hustle into the diamond for the tag-up at second base. Watch the batter-runner touch first base. Be prepared for plays at second base or first base. Take the last runner into third base. Responsible for fly balls to left field when LF is going toward the foul line.

Base Hit to Outfield

(No rotation when the first base umpire positioned at second base.)

- **P:** Move from behind home plate and get ready for any play at home plate.
- **1st:** Be positioned at second base shading the runner at second base. Move inside the diamond and be prepared to take plays at second base or first base.
- **3rd:** Move inside the diamond for any play at third base.

Bases Loaded



Fly Ball Coverage (-----)

- P: Hustle toward third base in foul ground, and take the tag-up at third base. Be prepared for any play at home plate. Watch the runner touch home plate and release for any play at third base. Responsible for fly balls to right field, when RF is going toward the foul line.
- 1st: Be positioned at second base shading the runner at second base. Take all fly balls to right field and left field, UNLESS EITHER outfielder is going toward the foul line. When the Plate umpire or the Third base umpire take the fly ball, move inside the diamond and take the tag-ups at first base and second base. Take the last runner to third base.
- 3rd: Hustle into the diamond for the tag-up at second base and first base. Be prepared to take any calls at first base or second base, and take the last runner into third base. Responsible for fly balls to left field when LF is going toward the foul line or the tag-up at third base if the Plate umpire has fly ball coverage.

Base Hit to Outfield

(No rotation when the first base umpire is positioned at second base)

- **P:** Move from behind home plate and be positioned for any play at home plate.
- **1st:** Be positioned at second base shading the runner at second base. Move inside the diamond and be prepared to take plays at second base or first base.
- **3rd:** Move inside the diamond for any play at third base.

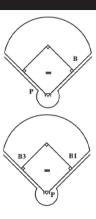
TWO OR THREE-UMPIRE SYSTEM BETWEEN INNING MECHANICS

PLATE UMPIRE:

Assume a position approximately 15 feet from home, near the line in foul territory and facing the infield. Alternate foul lines according to the following: Take a position on the foul line that is on the side of the field as the team coming off the field.

BASE UMPIRE:

Assume a position approximately 15 feet in the outfield. Stand in fair territory and face the infield. Be alert to hustle players on and off the field. In a two-umpire system, the base umpire is responsible for brushing the pitcher's plate after the conclusion of the previous inning.



UMPIRE SIGNAL CHART



Raise right arm showing two fingers. Verbally call, "Two Bases."



TRAPPED BALL/SAFE
Extend arms straight out with
palms down. Verbally call,
"Trapped Ball" or "Safe."



DELAYED DEAD BALLExtend left arm straight out with fist closed.



HOLD UP PLAY
With palm up, raise hand farthest away from batter towards pitcher.



FOUL TIP
Fingers from both hands are
touched together chest high in
front of body and then a strike
signal with no verbal call.



FOUR-BASE AWARD (SP)
On any fair touched ball going
over the fence, raise right hand
showing four fingers. Verbally call,
"Four Bases."





Raise right arm. With fist closed move it a counter-clockwise twirling motion. Verbally call, "Home Run."



INFIELD FLY

Raise right arm with fist closed.

Verbally call, "Infield Fly."



FAIR BALL
Point towards fair ground with hand closest to infield. No verbal call.



First give DEAD BALL signal. Verbally call, "Foul Ball."



Motion with either hand to the pitcher. Verbally call, "Play Ball."



TIME/DEAD BALL
Raise both hands with open palms
away from the body. Verbally call,
"Time" or "Dead Ball."



COUNT
Raise both arms up, indicate strikes with fingers on right hand and balls with fingers on left hand. Verbally give count. Use consecutive fingers when giving count.



STRIKE/OUT

Bring left arm with hand closed to midsection as right arm is extended straight up with hand facing ear. Then pull down at elbow while closing fist. Verbally call, "Strike" or "Out."



NATIONAL INDICATOR FRATERNITY

Listed below are the 2007 inductees into the National Indicator Fraternity This fraternity is one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon an ASA umpire. To qualify, an umpire must have officiated in three national tournaments, been an ASA umpire for at least seven years and must be recommended by his/her commissioner and regional umpire-in-chief. A complete list of all National Indicator Fraternity members can be found on www.asasoftball.com or in the Umpire Case Book.

Abbey, Carroll G. (Comanche, TX) Alexander, Alexandra (San Francisco, CA) Anderson, Bradley (Fremont, NE) Angel, Stan (San Mateo, CA) Angeli, Robert C. (Alexandria, VA) Aten, John H. (Fredericksburg, VA) Aycock, Matthew C. (Hoschton, GA) Bagwell, Jim (Durango, CO) Baier, Timothy L. (Aiea, HI) Balducci, Aldo (Massapegua Park, NY) Bark, Jerry (Killeen, TX) Bertuzzi, III James J. (Vallejo, CA) Bolton, Garig E. (Gig Harbor, WA) Borek, James (Ronkonkoma, NY) Brown, Glenn (Oak Harbor, WA) Brunson, Darryl (Harker Heights, TX) Buchheim, Chuck (Chester, SD) Burge, Sammy R. (Mesquite, TX) Burns, Kasey (Phoenix, AZ) Burns, Ray (Phoenix, AZ) Calcano, Victor (Amityville, NY) Campbell, Jackson (Keller, TX) Campbell, Johnny L. (Bloomfield, NM) Cardenas, Eloy I. (Santa Fe, NM) Carter, Bruce (Watertown, SD) Collins, Bridget M. (Lakewood, CO) Conlon, William E. (Watertown, SD) Constantinidis, George (Alexandria, VA) Cooley, Robert E. (Richland, WA) Daniel, Don (Williston, ND) Dealy, Arthur D. (Alexandria, VA) DeMayo, Bobby (Lynn, MA) Derengowski, Paul (Ft. Worth, TX) Dillon, David W. (Wabash, IN) Dixon, Denia (Atlanta, GA) Dockter, Jason (Bismarck, ND) Donner, Jim (Shoreline, WA) Douglas, Albert (Belfast, ME) Douglass, Dustin (Harker Heights, TX) Elfman, Dwight (Devils Lake, ND) Ellis, Timothy S. (Grand Prairie, TX) Emery, David (Salem, OR) Fetherston, Peter (Smithtown, NY) Finch, Stanley (Pearl City, HI) Fishel, Don (Dewey, AZ) Forsythe, John (McKinney, TX) Funicelli, Beverly N. (Bowie, MD) Galindo, John (Spring, TX) Garner, Bob (Cape Girardeau, MO) Giesler, Art (Ft. Worth, TX) Goudy, Randy (Benicia, CA) Green, Robert "Bob" (Royse City, TX) Hancock, Sammy R. (Winston-Salem, NC) Haun, Kevin (Portage, MI) Herzer, Joseph "Joe" (Dallas, TX) Hettich, Jarod (Sioux Falls, SD) Hodge, Michael (North Bend, WA) Hoffman, Michael R. (Vancouver, WA) Holtz, Hogey A. (Saginaw, MI) Jahnke, Steve (Caledonia, MI) Javillo, Rogelio "Roger" (Honolulu, HI) Jose, Ron (Clancy, MT)

Kaczmarek, Shawn (Kenmore, NY) Kearney, Keith (Killeen, TX) Keener, Richard R. (Honolulu, HI) Kelly, Kevin C. (Toledo, OH) King, A. J. (Bowie, MD) Kriegh, Wes (Waldorf, MD) Lincoln, Mark D. (Arlington, VA) Lindsey, Rodger A. (Hiram, GA) Macdowall, Keith (N. Branford, CT) Manning, Jason (City, OR) Martin, Joy (Denton, TX) McGiboney, Leonard (Newnan, GA) McIntosh, Michael (Cooper City, FL) McLaughlin, Jeff (York, PA) MeKeel, Richard R. (Bonita Springs, FL) Middleton, Steve (Grand Forks, ND) Miller, Daryl (Las Vegas, NV) Miltner, Tim (Tracy, CA) Morgan, John S. (Hopewell Junction, NY) Moyer, David A. (Milford, DE) Muranaka, Jan (Aiea, HI) Nagel, Larry (Sapulpa, OK) O'Clair, Terry (Bismarck, ND) Oelfke, Mark (Maple Grove, MN) Okinaka, Warren K. (Pearl City, HI) Oswald, Dave (Longview, WA) Pemberton, Russell R. (Magnolia, TX) Perchert, Dale (Great Falls, MT) Pollock, Sr. Ted (West Babylon, NY) Reid, Mike (Reno, NV) Roper, Mike (Dalton, GA) Savage, William (Millersville, MD) Schuette, Jerry (New Haven, CT) Selden, David H. (Reese, MI) Self, Jason G. (Armuchee, GA) Shepherd, John (Valleio, CA) Silvernagel, Anthony (Bismarck, ND) Smith, Daniel J. (Butler, PA) Stack, Jr. Wade H. (Greenville, SC) Stanford, Robert "Dennis" (Cumming, GA) Staples, Shawn (Biddeford, ME) Steele, Allen (Tyler, TX) Stobo, Stacy (San Francisco, CA) Subach, James (Clay, NY) Tanaka, Keith (Waipahu, HI) Taylor, Gerald (Hartselle, AL) Terpstra, Brenda (Lynden, WÁ) Thompson, David L. (Hillsboro, OR) Thompson, Russell (Gresham, OR) Thorpe, Kevin M. (Fallon, NV) Trent, Andy (Kokomo, IN) Turner, Phil (Overton, NE) Vander Ven, John E. (Dover, DE) Vega, Richard (Casper, WY) Warne, Lori (Sioux Falls, SD) Wartinger, Ray (Mill Creek, WA) Wesley, Mark A (Grand Prairie, TX) Wilson, Joe (Des Moines, WA) Wolf, Michael D. (Highspire, PA) Wright, Jeff (Keller, TX) Yamatsuka, Walter K. (Pearl City, HI)

ASA UMPIRE MEDALS PROGRAM

Listed below are individuals who joined the ASA Umpire Medals Program in 2005. The Umpire Medals program recognizes ASA Umpires for years of service. Each group is divided into gold (20 years), silver (15 years), bronze (seven years) and blue (over three years). For a complete list of Umpire Medals visit the ASA web site at www.asasoftball.com.

BLUE

Adams, Darren Juneau, AK Aiken, Nancy Salem, OR Bird. Randell Kansas, OK Blair, Lynn Clyde, TX Blue, Zachary Kokomo, IN Bolton, Graig E. Gig Harbor, WA Boyd, Timothy Anderson, IN Portsmouth, VA Branham, Ryan D. Branham, William V. Portsmouth, VA Brindley, Joe Roseville, CA Brooks, Danny Grain Valley, MO Brooks, Mike Wylie, TX Brown, Garry L. St. Croix, IN Tupelo, MS Buchanan, Kathy Busler, Gerald L. Bath, ME Caldwell, Ralph Evansville, IN Caloo, Raul Royersford, PA Chandler, David Middletown, IN Childers, Michael C. Monroe, GA Comerford, Trina Amity, OR Cook, David S. Wichita Falls, TX Cozart, Ed Ramer, TN Darling, Wayne Meridian, ID Dively, Timothy Pesotum, IL Ellsworth, April Kilgore, TX Fisher, Tara Phoenix, AZ Frey, Tracy Nebraska City, NE Gray, Scott A. Livonia, MI Grens, Katherine Ypsilanti, MI Hatcher, Jim Danville, IN Lebanon, IL Hayes, Kevin L. Hoeye, Paul Hermiston, OR Jackson, Jaimie Tupelo, MS Jeffery, Chiquita Milwaukee, WI Johnson, Julie Alexandria, IN Johnson, Ron Bellingham, WA Kern, Bobby Waldorf, MD Kirkham, Billy Shelburn, IN Klaiber, Jr., John Dugger, IN Lay, Keith Rowlett, TX Loop, Robert Sterling Heights, MI Massicci, Alexander Rowlett, TX McCormac, Robert Broken Arrow, OK McDonald, III. Thomas E. Bismarck, ND McMillan, Paul "Brooks" Loganville, GA Misenhimer, Dallas Venus, TX Mitchell, Johnathon Cincinnati, OH Plachecki, Tom Topeka, KS Rivers, Shavonna Burien, WA Schloss, Robert Spokane, WA Schwartz, Hal S. Aberdeen, NJ Shields, Paul Saugus, MA Shults, Jackie DeSoto, TX Smith, Charles Smith, Stephen Spangler, Terry Spencer, Leroy Stay, Robert Sylvia, Ed Thompson, Ron Trigg, Glyn R. Wagner, Corey Walker, Vic West, Randall Wright, Jeffrey "Jeff" Wright, Tim Fort Pierce, FL
Newburgh, IN
Topeka, KS
Dallas, TX
Sand Springs, OK
Lewisville, TX
Tulsa, OK
Milford, CT
Tupelo, MS
Clinton, MS
Hayfield, MN
Walla Walla, WA
Suwanee, GA
Keller, TX
Sullivan, IN

BRONZE

San Francisco, CA

Alexander, Alex C. Allen, Robert W. Amundson, Justin Anderson, Scott Baldwin, Angela Bjornson, Eric Branham, William V. Cook, David S. Eldridge, Stephen D. Gross, Danny Harris, Debbie Hart, Tracy Hayes, Kevin L. Hicks, Fred Hoffman, Jerry Hopkins, Kenneth Hungate, Larry Hunter, Jim Jeffery, Chiquita Johnson, Julie Keller Tom Kern, Bobby Kes, Kenneth Lake, Robert Lay, Keith Little, Sr., Sterling Lozano, Lupe McNally, John Myers, Russ Neal, Roger A. Perkins, Gerald Posey, John Reberger, John Ringler, Rick Schloss, Robert Schrack, Eric Schulz, Spencer Schwartz, Hal S. Shults, Jackie Solo, Sheldon Spangler, Lisa Spaulding, Ronald L. Spencer, Leroy Stapleberg, Ronald J. Stay, Robert Stevens, Dan Sword, Doug Unsicker, Fred Utz, Aaron M. Wagner, Corey Walker, Jeff Walker, Vic Watson, Arthur Watson, Dennis D. Wilson, Aaron Wright, Jeffrey "Jeff"

Zorn, Howard

Ore City, TX Rapid City, SD Mesa, AZ Atlanta, GA Portland, OR Portsmouth, VA Wichita Falls, TX Anderson, IN New Palestine, IN Fountain Valley, CA Mesa, AZ Lebanon, IL Carson, CA Mt Pleasant MI No. Augusta, SC Indianapolis, IN Lodi, CA Milwaukee, WI Alexandria, IN Sartell MN Waldorf, MD Grandview, MO Citrus Heights, CA Rowlett, TX Saco, ME Garland, TX Canton, MI Farmersburg, IN Roseville, CA Waterford, MI Midlothian, TX Wichita Falls, TX Carmichael, CA Spokane, WA Lewisville, TX Belmont, CA Aberdeen, NJ DeSoto, TX Carmichael, CA Rockville, MD Madison, ME Dallas, TX Cumminaton, MA Sand Springs, OK Wyoming, MI Blue Springs, MO Lebanon, IN Crawfordsville, IN Havfield, MN Lake Dallas, TX Walla Walla, WA Dayton, OH Marion, IN Lee's Summit, MO Keller, TX Lee's Summit, MO

SILVER

Abel-Rey, Harold Allen, James Ames, Richard Angel, Stan Arnold, Dale Baker, Scott Bowling, Don Branham, William V. Brown, Timothy Burge, Sammy R. Clipperton, Mike Collins, Bridget M. Creek, Brad Eisenbeis, Brad Erickson, Dennis Forsythe, John Galey, Jeff Gomez, Daniel S. Graves, Jesse Green, Mark Hamilton, Debbie Hayes, Kevin L. Hews, Dan Hodge, Michael Horrigan, Richard Jenne, Mike Johnson, Julie Knab, Brian Lay, Keith McIntosh, Michael McKinney, Michael Miller, Albert Morris, Robert Nelsen, DeWayne O'Brien, Cheryl Pavone, Judy Payton, Bert Robertson, Jack A. Schenck, James "Rick" Schima, Donald E. Schowengerdt, Eric Schulz, Spencer Self, Jason G. Shore, Garv Spencer, Leroy Stack, Jr. Wade H. Stanford, Robert "Dennis" Stay, Robert Stobo, Stacy C. Terpstra, Brenda Tolle, Gary Trent, Andy Waggoner, Jr. Glenn C. Wagner, Corey Walker, Vic Wright, Jeffrey "Jeff"

Sacramento, CA Ennis, TX Darlington, IN San Mateo, CA Durand, MI Odon, IN Richardson, TX Portsmouth, VA Rochester Hills, MI Mesquite, TX Blue Springs, MO Lakewood, CO Harrisonville, MO Moorhead, MN Beaverton, OR McKinney, TX Lafayette, IN Austin, TX Anderson, IN Huntington, IN Sacramento, CA Lebanon, IL Biddeford, ME North Bend, WA San Francisco, CA Grain Valley, MO Alexandria, IN Wausau, WI Rowlett, TX Cooper City, FL Sacramento, CA Burlington, WA Citrus Heights, CA Mesa, AZ Ennis, TX Orland Park, IL Quapaw, OK Central Point, OR Wake Forest, NC Shelby Twp., MI Blue Springs, MO Belmont, CA Armuchee, GA Houston, TX Dallas, TX Greenville, SC Cumming, GA Sand Springs, OK San Francisco, CA Lvnden, WA Plano, TX Kokomo, IN Moreno Valley, CA Hayfield, MN Walla Walla, WA Keller, TX

ASA UMPIRE MEDALS PROGRAM

GOLD

Aquillio, Chris Barber, Randall Barnett, Daniel A. Bland, Chris R. Bolton, Graig E. Booker, Eugene Booth, Richard W. "Rick" Branham, William V. Browne Jr Thomas P Brunot, Cindi Burns, Kasey Burns, Rav Butler, William Campbell, Johnny Carlson, Mike Cook, Gary Creek, Brad Dealy, Arthur "Art" Drouillard, Marc M. Eagle, Curtis Eason, Henry L. Eckert, Lee L. Eddy, Charles R. Fox, Larry Gayden, Andrew Gogolin, Gray Gordon, Kenneth C. Green, Gerald Green, John Groff, Donald R. Guerra, Jr. Joe Hattery, Kenneth Hayes, Kevin L. Hillel, Neil Hoffman, Michael R. Hopper, William D. Jahnke, Steve Killion, Mike Kirklauskas, Tom Kottke, Gary E. Kummerow, Richard W. Lawrence, Clark Lehman, Kevin Lindsey, Rodger A. Lozano, Lupe Martin, Joy McIntosh, Michael Moreno, Frank Morgan, John F. Morgan, John S. Pollard, Jerry Pompie, William Rangel, Arnie Robinson, Dale Sanson, Nick A. Self Jason G Shults, Jackie Stay, Robert Sterling, Jr. Nathan A. Stocker, David Sullivan, Bobby G.

Antelope, CA Fair Oaks, CA Anderson IN Papillion, NE Gig Harbor, WA Sacramento, CA Waldport, OR Portsmouth, VA Topeka, KS Lantana, FL Phoenix, AZ Phoenix, AZ Elk Grove, CA Bloomfield, NM Spokane, WA Rochester, MI Harrisonville, MO Alexandria, VA Mount Clemens, MI Dillwyn, VA Auburn, GA Lake Crystal, MN Princeton, LA West Bloomfield, MI Flushing, MI Holland, MI Texas City, TX Copperas Cove, TX Conroe, TX Spring City, PA Midland, TX Peru, IN Lebanon II El Dorado Hills, CA Vancouver, WA Coral Springs, FL Caledonia, MI Lewisville, TX Auburn, MA Golden Valley, MN Mosinee, WI Northville, MI Dundee, OH Hiram, GA Garland TX Denton, TX Cooper City, FL West Sacramento, CA Fishkill, NY Hopewell Junction, NY China Spring, TX Sacramento, CA Holland, MI Sacramento, CA No. Manchester, IN Armuchee, GA DeSoto, TX Sand Springs, OK No. Las Vegas, NV Sweeting, Richard J.
Tabarango, Ted
Thompson, Alberto
Thompson, Russell
Tolle, Gary
Tomasi, John
Walker, Bernard
Walker, Vic
Warner, Brian
Warner, Ralph M.
Wesley, Mark A.
Williamson, Dennis
Zimmerman, Ronald L.

Wellesley, MA Sacramento, CA Staten Island, NY Gresham, OR Plano, TX Mill Creek, WA Elk Grove, CA Walla Walla, WA New Lebanon, OH Trotwood, OH Grand Prairie, TX Blue Springs, MO Muscatine. IA

Novato, CA

Wayne, MI

2006 ELITE UMPIRES

The National ASA/USA Elite Umpire program is designed to recognize umpires who have reached elite status within the program. These individuals must have participated in at least four (4) national championships, and umpired in two (2) of which must have been in the same category of play and from an upper level national championship. These individuals must have been an ASA registered umpire for at least seven (7) years, and a current member in good standing.

SL	OW PITCH		FA	ST PITCH		
Johnny Campbell Bridget Collins Stanley Finch Frank Gonzalez Rod Hill David Martin L.V. McCree Mike Roper Betsy Rosenberg Michael Scharf Dave Staples	Bloomfield Lakewood Pearl City Waxahachie Anchorage Denton Vista Dalton Dallas Clinton Township Johnson City	NM CO HI TX AK TX CA GA TX MI NY	Cindi Arnold Scott Brians Jack Floyd Jim Gibilisco Kevin Haun Michael Hoffman Larry Nagel Dave Selden Dave Thornhill Gary Tolle	Knightdale Coweta Everret Lemon Grove Portage Vancouver Sapula Reese Whitewright Plano	NC OK WA CA MI WA OK MI TX TX	
Dave Otapies	oormoon only		MODIFIED			
			Alan Freedman	Davie	FL	

Alabama ADULT

Men's C SP Satterfield

Men's D SP Easton Properties

Men's 40-Over SP James R. Smith Trucking

Men's C Church SP Southside Baptist

Women's C SP Alabama Fury

Women's D SP Decatur Athletics

YOUTH

Girls' 6-Under West Mobile Fury

Girls' 8-Under West Mobile Stingers

Girls' B 10-Under FP-South West Mobile Fever

Girls' B 10-Under FP-North Alexandria Titans

Girls' A 10-Under FP Birmingham Vipers 95

Girls' B 12-Under FP Satsuma Intimagators

Girls' A 12-Under FP-South Birmingham Vipers 93 Girls' B 12-Under FP-North T-Town Titans

Girls' B 14-Under FP-South Mims Xplosion

Girls' B 14-Under FP-North

Girls' A 14-Under FP Huntsville Sparks

Bama Cobras

Girls' B 16-Under FP-South Theodore Bobcats

Girls' A 16-Under FP

Birmingham Vipers-Andy

Girls' A 18-Under FP Alabama Vipers

OTHER

Coed A SP Geico

Alaska

Men's C SP Quisqueya Men's D SP Club Soda

Men's E SP Polaris Bar

Women's D SP Hooters/Guido's Pizza

Women's E SP Izzy's Girlz

Women's 35-Over SP Robinson Millwork

YOUTH

Girls' B 12-Under FP ENT Clinic

Girls' B 14-Under FP Alaska Avalanche

Girls' B 16-Under FP Alaska Northern Stars

Girls' B 18-Under FP Arctic Heat

OTHER

Coed B SP Mixed Nuts

Coed D SP Anglers Keepers

Coed E SP Tweto's

Arkansas ADULT

Men's D SP H.P.S.

Men's E SP First Choice

Men's A Industrial SP Cooper Tire

Women's E Open SP Texas Heat

Women's EE Open SP TXK Knockouts

YOUTH

Girls' B 10-Under FP Renegades

Girls' A 10-Under FP Showtime

Girls' B 12-Under FP L. A. Cardinals

Girls' A 12-Under FP Beebe Blast

Girls' B 14-Under FP Lightening Byrd Girls' A 14-Under FP Southern Tag

Girls' B 16-Under FP AR Angels

Girls' A 16-Under FP Beebe Blast 89

Girls' B 18-Under FP Bashers

Girls' A 18-Under FP

Ft. Smith Diamonds Girls' C 10-Under SP

Mustangs

Girls' A/B 12-Under SP Bears

Girls' C 16-Under SP Dirty Dozen

Arizona ADULT

Men's A FP Tubac Si-Senor

Men's B FP Tucson Luna Towing

Men's C FP

Men's C SP Tucson Major Leagers

Men's D SP Tucson Party Hardy

Men's 16" SP Yuma Landing

Men's 50-Over SP Yuma Stew

Men's 60-Over SP Yavapai Casino

Women's C FP Bullhead City

Women's B FP Tucson Rovals

Women's D SP Prescott Paint & Body

Women's C SP Yuma Budweiser

Women's 50-Over SP Tucson K-G

Women 55-60 Tucson Arizona Gems

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Tucson Scramblers

Girls' B 10-Under FP Yuma Diamonds Girls' A 12-Under FP Desert Thunder

Girls' B 12-Under FP Needles Crags

Girls' A 14-Under FP Arizona Cats

Girls' B 14-Under FP Douglas Brats

Girls' A 16-Under FP Desert Thunder

Girls' B 16-Under FP Nogales Wolf Pack

Girls' A 18-Under FP Tucson Roadrunners

Girls' B 18-Under FP Safford Las Calientes

Central California

Men's C FP Taylor Farm Athletics

Women's 23-Under FP California Breeze

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Madera Lady Canes

Girls' B 10-Under FP Goleta Thunder

Girls' C 10-Under FP Hanford Flames

Girls' A 12-Under FP Shockwayes

Girls' B 12-Under FP Orcutt Action Gold

Girls' C 12-Under FP Kerman All-Stars

Girls' A 14-Under FP

Girls' B 14-Under FP Fresno Rage

Girls' C 14-Under FP Liberty Ranchos Gold

Girls' A 16-Under FP Fresno Force

Girls' B 16-Under FP

Clovis East Outlaws

Girls' A 18-Under FP Bakersfield Babes

Cleveland ADULT

Men's B SP Mojo

Men's C SP Barille Electric Dave Nager Softball

Men's D SP SMS/Red Circle Lanes Larry's/Steel Supply

YOUTH

Girls' B 14-Under FP Northcoast Stingers

Girls' A 16-Under FP Mad Dogs

Girls' B 16-Under FP Northcoast Sting Lady Bears

Girls' A 18-Under FP Ohio Bandits

OTHER

Coed Major SP Advance Door

Coed A SP Raiders

Cincinatti ADULT

Men's C FP Cincy Renegades

Men's Major SP Storm/N.K. Merchants

Men's A SP Mike Folks Auto Body

Men's B SP TPE/AST

Men's C SP Inn-Between

Men's E SP HHH Insurance

Men's Major Industrial SP Local 863

Men's 35-Over SP

EMR Group
Women's B SP
Bobcat/Easton

Women's C SP Pure Romance

OTHER

Coed B SP Continuous Improvement

Dallas ADULT

Men's A SP Graco Broncos

Men's B SP Grav Hounds

Men's C SP Cash Plus Pawn/Wood Law

Men's D SP Trojans

Men's Major Church SP Sherwood Park

Women's D SP Spanky's

Women's Church SP Cliff Temple

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP 95 Texas Heat

Girls' A 12-Under FP Irving Firestyx

Girls' B 12-Under FP Mesquite Storm

Girls' A 14-Under FP Texas Elite

Girls' B 14-Under FP Texas Energy

Girls' A 16-Under FP Texas Glory

Girls' B 16-Under FP Texas Blaze

Girls' A 18-Under FP Diamond Dolls

Girls' B 18-Under FP Teianitas

OTHER

Coed A SP The Group

Greater San Joaquin ADULT

Men's B FP

Italian Athletic Club Men's C FP

Stockton Outlaws

Men's 45-Over FP American Sports Academy

Men's D SP Mid Valley Plastering

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP All American Sports

Girls' A 12-Under FP California Grapettes

Girls' A 14-Under FP California Grapettes

Girls' A 16-Under FP California Grapettes

Girls' A 18-Under FP Nor Cal Flyers

Houston YOUTH

Girls' 18-Under A FP Texas Thunder

Girls' 16-Under A FP Texas Hawks

Girls' 16-Under B FP Katy Cruisers

Girls' 14-Under A FP Katy Express

Girls' 14-Under B FP Spring Klein

Girls' 12-Under A FP Texas Showdown

Girls' 12-Under B FP Humble Explosion

Girls' 10-Under A FP Deer Park TPS

Girls' 10-Under B FP Texas Flames

Idaho ADULT

Men's C SP Whiteside

Men's D North SP Bomb Squad

Men's D South SP Pro Mortgage Group

Women's D North SP N.I. Merchants

Women's D South SP Bombers

YOUTH

Girls' B 10-Under FP K.C. Heartbreakers

Girls' A 12-Under FP Lewiston Jinx

Girls' B 12-Under FP Boise Blast Girls' A 14-Under FP Valley Bombers

Girls' B 14-Under FP Sooners

Girls' A 16-Under FP Coeur d' Alene Crush

Girls' B 16-Under FP Twin Falls Terror

Illinois ADULT

Men's A FP Nokomis BVD Lite

Men's B FP Mississippi Valley (Mendon)

Men's B SP Reid Builders

Men's C North SP Bradley Gimmedat

Men's C South SP Randy's 643 (Troy)

Men's D SP Carlyle Rakers Appraisal

Women's A FP Carbondale Cougars

Carbondale Cougars
Women's B FP
Decatur Misfits

Women's Open SP Jacksonville Midwest Merchants

Women's C SP Canton McDucks

Women's D SP E. Moline Ice Cream Palace

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Quad City Firebirds

Girls' B 10-Under FP Mokena Storm

Girls' A 12-Under FP Black Widows

Girls' B 12-Under FP BNGSA Fusion

Girls' A 14-Under FP

Girls' B 14-Under FP Team Conxion

eam Conxion

Girls' A 16-Under FP Quad City Heat (Moline)

Girls' B 16-Under FP Beardstown

Girls' A 18-Under FP

Girls' B 18-Under FP Sangamon Sting

OTHER

Coed A SP Medora Grothas Trucking

Indiana ADULT

Men's C FP Bremen DC Current

Men's D FP Kokomo CFD

Men's B SP Trads 219

Men's C SP Indianapolis Garrets/ Shockers

Men's D North SP D & R Miller

Men's D South SP Evansville Fonner Carpet

Men's E North SP Kokomo Big Daddys

Men's E South SP Stanford Hardy Insurance

Men's A Industrial SP Chandler Team Toyota

Men's Major Church SP Whiting Cast/LFA

Men's 35-Over SP Goshen Millers

Men's D/E 35-Over SP Bloomington DDI

Men's Major 16-Inch SP

Men's A 16-Inch SP Budweiser

Women's C North SP Kokomo Schwartz/Weber

Women's D North SP Kokomo Vickers/UAW 685

Women's D South SP No. Vernon Wilson Concrete

Women's E North SP Angola Diamond Devils

YOUTH

Girls' 10-Under SP Sudden Impact (Greensburg) Girls' 12-Under SP Brownsburg Heat

Girls' 14-Under SP Brownsburg Believe

Girls' 18-Under SP Jasper Girls

Girls' B 8-Under FP Center Grove Explosion

Girls' A 10-Under FP Booneville X-Treme

Girls' B 10-Under FP Logansport Renegades (Flora)

Girls' A 12-Under FP Indiana Shockwave White (Frankfort)

Girls' B 12-Under FP Indiana Force (Montezuma)

Girls' C 12-Under North FP Shelby Sting

Girls' C 12-Under South FP

Girls' B 14-Under FP Monticello Eclipse

Girls' C 14-Under North FP Germantown Lady Lions

Girls' C 14-Under South FP Indiana Misfits (Shelburn)

Girls' A 16-Under FP Indy Diamond Chix (New Palestine)

Girls' B 16-Under FP Indiana Lightning Blue (Upland)

Girls' A 18-Under FP Indy Edge (New Palestine)

Girls' B 18-Under FP Indy Lightning Elite (Upland)

OTHER

Coed D/E SP Greenwood Circle City

lowa ADULT

Men's A FP Reasnor RPM's

Men's B FP Palazzo Java House

Men's C FP Kasson State Theatre

Men's 40-Over FP Grandview Cabinets Men's C SP Sambetti's

Men's D SP Access Wireless

Men's E SP Scooter's Bar & Grill

Men's 35-Over SP Third Base/Red Hawks

Men's 16" Major SP Monsoon

Men's 16" A SP Murphy's Bar & Grill

Men's 16" B SP Emil's Deli

Men's 14" Major SP Stadium Lounge

Men's A 14" SP Nitehawks

Men's B 14" SP Huxley Communications Women's C SP C & C Knights

Women's D SP

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Ottumwa Mighty Dawgs

Girls' B 10-Under FP Ankeny Gold Girls' C 10-Under FP

West Branch Bears

Girls' A 12-Under FP Muscatine Maniacs Girls' B 12-Under FP

Cedar Rapids Blue Devils
Girls' C 12-Under FP

Wilton Titans
Girls' A 14-Under FP

West Des Moines Panthers Black

Girls' B 14-Under FP Cedar Rapids Saints

OTHER

Coed A SP Team Elite Sports

Coed B SP Baggers

Kansas ADULT

Men's D SP TST Softball Men's B/C FP MoKan Twins

Women's D SP Hammerheads

Women's C FP Abilene Eagles

YOUTH

Girls' 8-Under Gold Coach Pitch Chaos

Girls' 8-Under Silver Coach Pitch Clay Center 8 B's

Girls' A 10-Under FP Mustangs-Grey

Girls' B 10-Under FP Augusta Shox

Girls' C 10-Under Gold FP

Girls' C 10-Under Silver FP Abilene Ikes

Girls' A 12-Under FP Blaze

Girls' B 12-Under FP Blitz

Girls' C 12-Under Gold FP Lady Lakers

Girls' C 12-Under Silver FP Blue Aces

Girls' A 14-Under FP Mustangs

Girls' B 14-Under FP Phenix

Girls' C 14-Under Gold FP Grip N Rips

Girls' C 14-Under Silver FP Renegades

Girls' A 16-Under FP Storm

Girls' B 16-Under FP Phenix-Flyer

Girls' C 16-Under Open FP Eclipse

Girls' C 16-Under Silver FP Lady Sixers

Girls' A 18-Under FP KS Flames

Girls' B 18-Under FP Technocats

Girls' C 18-Under Open FP Rockin Javs

Girls' C 18-Under Silver FP Lady Legenz

Kansas City

Men's C FP Gamblers

Men's D SP VooDoo

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP KC Xplosion Girls' A 12-Under FP Flash

Girls' B 12-Under FP PH Power

Girls' A 14-Under FP Rockets-Moppin

Girls' B 14-Under FP Blue Valley T-Bones

Girls' A 16-Under FP

Girls' B 16-Under FP KC Fire

Girls' A 18-Under FP KC Whitesox

Kentucky ADULT

Men's D West SP

Men's C SP

Fvil

Grants
Men's D East SP

Zepperters

Men's E East SP
Cumberland Natl. Bank

Men's F West SP

Imperial Lawn
Men's A Church SP

Souls Harbor Men's B Church SP

Eckron Baptist

Men's 35-Over SP Brooks Sports

Women's C SP Fraley's/Low Bobs

Women's D SP Edward Jones

YOUTH

Girls' 8-Under SP Southern KY Thunder Girls' 10-Under SP B.G. Girls

Girls' 12-Under SP B. J. Bears

Girls' 18-Under SP

Leitchfield
Girls' A 10-Under FP
Southern Static

Girls' A 12-Under FP MC Steelers

Girls' A 14-Under FP

Hurricanes
Girls' A 16-Under FP

Louisville Sluggers Girls' A 18-Under FP Louisville Stunners

OTHER

Coed A SP Hub City

Louisiana ADULT

Men's C SP DFM

Men's D SP LA Cane

Men's E SP Five O

Women's 35-Over SP Touche II

YOUTH

Girls' 8-Under Coach Pitch Cajun Coullions

Girls' 10-Under SP Xtreme Kaos

Girls' 12-Under SP Sluggers

Girls' 14-Under SP

Flamin' Cajuns

Girls' 16-Under SP Sliver Bullets

Girls' 18-Under SP Gonzalez Thunder

Girls' A 14-Under SP LA Patriots

Girls' A 16-Under SP DS Stingers

Maine ADULT

Men's C SP Portland Plastic Pipe McLaughlin Sports Men's D SP Johnson Foundations

Men's E North SP-Buck Construction

Men's E South SP-Scarboro Muffler Center

Men's 35-Over SP Astburys

Men's 10 Man Modified Pitch Jim's Gun Shop

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Southern Maine Flame

Girls' A 12-Under FP Southern Maine Heat

Girls' B 12-Under FP Skowhegan

Girls' A 14-Under FP Southern Maine Flame

Girls' B 14-Under FP Gorham

Girls' A 16-Under FP

Girls' B 16-Under FP Bangor Fever

Girls' A 18-Under FP Maine Coastal Diamonds

OTHER

Coed B SP Portland Beverage

Coed C SP Charlie's Bar

Massachusetts ADULT

Men's D SP WW Clark

Men's 10 Man Modified 21 Club

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Taunton Dynamites

Girls' B 12-Under FP Somerset Storm

Girls' B 14-Under FP New Bedford Kaos

Girls' A 16-Under FP Dracut Panthers

Girls' B 16-Under FP Mass Intensity Girls' A 18-Under FP Central Mass Rapids

Memphis ADULT

Men's B FP Memphis Posse

Men's C FP Memphis Dawas

Men's 40-Over FP Memphis Pomen

Men's C SP Triangle

Men's D SP Team Memphis

Men's A Modified

Women's C SP Memphis Traders

Women's D SP Just For Fun

Women's 35-Over SP Memphis Traders

OTHER

Coed A SP Bartlett Blaze

Coed B SP Turtles

Michigan ADULT

Men's B FP Tiffany's Food & Spirit

Men's C FP Mickev's

Men's D FP Marquette Fence

Men's E FP Champion Glass

Men's C SP Jax Softball

Men's D SP Ski Town Softball

Men's E SP

Men's F SP K-H Concrete/Jumbos

Men's Major 35-Over Div

I SP Sheraton Hotel

Men's Major 35-Over Div II SP Round Tree Bar & Grill

Men's Seniors 50-Over 111 SP KJP Sales

Men's B 9 Man Modified Servinski Sod/A&B Camperland

Men's Div II Modified Bid Dawgs Trucking

Men's 10 Man Modified Secory Flyers

Women's B/C FP Blue Dogs

Women's D SP Public Title

Women's E SP Relections Hair Studio

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Ann Arbor Gold

Girls' B 12-Under FP Canton Thunderbirds

Girls' A 14-Under FP Finesse

Girls' B 14-Under FP Oakland Sidewinders

Girls' A 16-Under FP Finesse

Girls' B 16-Under FP Bay City Blast

Girls' A 18-Under FP Pink Piranaz

Girl's B 18-Under FP Fenton Fastpitch

Minneapolis ADULT

Men's C SP NE Yankees

Men's D SP Schmitty's

Men's 35-Over Northeast

Monse Bar & Grill

Men's 35-Over South SP Minnesota Merchants

Men's 40-Over SP

Men's D Industrial Huberts Crew

OTHER

Coed C SP Knight CAP

Halek's

Coed D SP

Veteran's Administration League Cardinal Bar

Lawyer League (competi-

tive)
Oppenheimer, Wolff &
Donnelly

Lawyer League (recreation) Merchant & Gouldy

Minnesota ADULT

Men's A/B SP Spike's

Men's CC SP Legion of Doom Men's C North SP Sports MD

Men's DD North SP Hartz

Men's DD Central SP Peterson Chapel

Men's DD South SP MKE Floor Design

Men's D SP Wells Fargo Desperados

Men's E SP Mick's Office

Men's A Church SP Christ the King

Men's B Church SP Atonement Angels

Men's B 35-Over SP Sauk Rapids

Men's C 35-Over SP Westwood Sports

Men's B FP PBI

Men's C FP Frontier Lounge

Men's D FP Anderson Chiropractic

Men's 40-Over FP

Jordan Realty
Men's A Modified

Hollywood Sports Men's B Modified Blue Devils

Women's CC SP SKR

Women's C SP Blue Ribbons Women's DD SP O'Brien's/Mark's Repair

Women's D SP Michaels Investments

Women's EE SP Kenn's/Miken

Women's Modified T-Road

YOUTH

Boys' 18-Under SP Line Drive

Girls' 12-Under SP Baxter Bombers

Girls' 14-Under SP BP Amoco Girls' 16-Under SP Polars White

Girls' 18-Under SP Brainerd Explosion

Girls' A 10-Under FP Shakopee

Girls' B 10-Under FP Bloomington Red

Girls' A 12-Under FP Shakopee Black

Girls' B 12-Under FP New Ulm White Girls' C 12-Under FP

St. Peter Red

Girls' Rec 12-Under FP ReMax Cloquet

Girls' A 14-Under FP Burnsville Blaze Gold

Girls' B 14-Under FP Hermantown Lightning

Girls' C 14-Under FP Buffalo #1

Girls' D 14-Under FP Duluth Thunder

Girls' Rec 14-Under FP St. Charles

Girls' A 16-Under FP New Ulm Red

Girls' B 16-Under FP Grand Rapids Eagles

Girls' C 16-Under FP Martin County West

Girls' D 16-Under FP Chargers

Girls' A 18-Under FP MN Sting Girls' B 18-Under FP Hollywood Booster Club

Girls' C 18-Under FP Winona WinStars

OTHER

Major Co-Rec SP Jonny's Saloon

Co-Rec A SP The Alamo

Co-Rec B SP Frederick's Accounting

Co-Rec C SP Cannon Valley Roofing/ Brewsters

Co-Rec D SP Bierstube/Nova Frost, Inc.

Mississippi ADULT

Men's B SP Sports Center

Men's C SP Boondocks

Men's D SP Inter-Pac

Men's E SP Dentinator Sports

Men's Major Church SP North Park Church of God

Women's C SP Team Nalco

Women's D SP Jones Construction

Women's E SP Southern Sluggers

YOUTH

Girls' 10-Under SP MS. Sting

Girls' 12-Under SP Diamond Girls

Girls' 14-Under SP Clarkdale

Girls' 16-Under SP Pink Flamingo's

Girls' A 10-Under FP MS. Wildfire

Girls' B 10-Under FP Tri-County Twisters

Girls' C 10-Under FP Saucier

Girls' A 12-Under FP Long Beach

Girls' B 12-Under FP McComb

Girls' C 12-Under FP Hatley

Girls' A 14-Under FP Coastliners

Girls' B 14-Under FP Booneville Blast

Girls' C 14-Under FP luka

Girls' A 16-Under FP Lady Poachers

Girls' B 16-Under FP Lady Rebels

Girls' A 18-Under FP MS Pride

Girls' B 18-Under FP Hot Shots

Missouri ADULT

Men's B FP Black Gold/Rivertown

Men's C FP Graff Pepsi

Men's B SP Columbia Heat/Hooters

Men's C SP Cody's

Men's D SP Regulators

Men's Major Church SP Parkcrest Baptist

Women's C SP Lugnuts

Women's D SP

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Silver Streaks

Girls' A 12-Under FP Columbia Rockers

Girls' B 12-Under FP

Silver Streaks
Girls' A 14-Under FP

Missouri Pride

Girls' B 14-Under FP Twisters

Girls' A 16-Under FP MO Lightning

Girls' B 16-Under FP Kelso Magic Girls' A 18-Under FP Missouri Madness

Girls' B 18-Under FP SEMO Magic

OTHER

Coed A SP Carters Pillz

Coed B North SP The Firm

Coed B South SP

Nebraska ADULT

Men's C FP John's Plumbing/Saddies Place

Men's D1 FP Little Water

Men's D2 FP Wildcats Softball

Men's 23-Under FP Little Water

Men's 40-Over FP

Men's 45-Over FP Brass Rail

Men's B SP T's 13

Men's C SP Cellar Bar & Grill

Men's D SP Stix Softball Club Sweet Williams Green

Men's E SP The Fury

Men's F SP Carlisle/Speir Physical

Men's 35-Over SP Hogan's Sporting Goods

Men's 40-Over SP Hagie

Men's 45-Over SP State Farm Ins

Men's 50-Over SP Mahris Homes

Men's 55-Over SP Spirit 55

Men's Church SP Borch Knight Fellowship

Women's C FP Black Magic Women's C SP Trade Center Auto

Women's D SP T-Shirt Engineers

Women's E SP Chicken Coop

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP NE Blue Diamonds

Girls' B 10-Under FP Fairbury Husker Rehab

Girls' C 10-Under FP Jr. Sparks

Girls' A 12-Under FP Nebraska Storm

Girls' B12-Under FP Lincoln Swingers

Girls' C 12-Under FP Ashland

Girls' D 12-Under FP

Red Cloud

Girls' A 14-Under FP Lincoln Swingers Gold

Girls' B 14-Under FP Adams Outlaws

Girls' C 14-Under FP Wicicala Sluggers

Girls' D 14-Under FP Arlington

Girls' A 16-Under FP Lincoln Jaguars

Girls' B 16-Under FP Wahoo High Velocity Sports

Girls' C 16-Under FP Auburn

Girls' A 18-Under FP Nebraska Storm

Girls' B 18-Under FP Shockers

Girls' C 18-Under FP

Girls' D 18-Under FP Lawrence

OTHER

Coed B SP Mama's Brew Crew/Expert T's

Coed C SP The Dirty Rottens Coed D SP Compos Installation

Coed E SP Westfield Pharmacy/

New Hampshire ADULT

Men's D SP R. J. Construction

Hogan's

Women's D SP Advantage Benefits Inc

Men's E Modified A & B Vending Men's D Modified T & H Computers

Men's C 9 Man Modified

Women's B Modified Papagalos

Women's C Modified Hinsdale Campground

Women's D Modified Beaver St. Market

OTHER

Coed Class B SP Chumly's

Nevada ADULT

Men's D SP Arsenal

Men's E SP Greenwood

YOUTH

Girls' B 10-Under FP SNFA SW Vegas Heat

Girls' C 10-Under FP Northwest Girls All Stars

Girls' A 12-Under FP Las Vegas Diamonds

Girls' B 12-Under FP Henderson Hot Shots

Girls' C 12-Under FP Redrock Vegas Force

Girls' A 14-Under FP American Attack

Girls' B 14-Under FP Henderson High Rollers

Girls' A 16-Under FP Nevada Lightning

Girls' A 18-Under FP Lil Rebels

OTHER

Coed B SP DssBats

North Carolina ADULT

Men's C FP Warriors

Men's D SP Priority One

Men's Major Church SP Holland United Methodist

Men's B Church SP Community Church

YOUTH

Girls' A 12-Under FP Heartbreakers

Girls' A 16-Under FP Triangle Lightning

Girls' A 18-Under FP Carolina Cardinals

North Dakota

Men's B SP Fargo Tharaldson Enterprises

Men's C SP Grand Forks Southgate/ Budweiser

Men's D SP Mandan Dust-Tex

Men's Rec I SP Minot Forced Air/Duffy's

Men's Rec II East SP Fargo Bush Leaguers

Men's Rec II West SP Bismarck Mariner Construction

Men's Rec III East SP Fargo Playmakers #1

Men's Rec III West SP Fullerton Elevator/Ranch House

Men's Rec IV East SP Devil's Lake Ed's/11th Frame/Gerrell's

Men's Rec IV West SP Fargo Water Equipment

Men's 35-Over Div I Fargo Bellerud

Men's 35-Over Div II Wahpeton Driftwood Lounge Men's 35-Over Div III West Fargo Valley Sporting Goods

Men's 35-Over Div IV Mandan Atlas

Men's 40-Over Div I Bismarck Buffalo Wild Wings

Men's 40-Over Div II Grand Forks Rumors

Men's 50-Over SP Fargo Performance Centers, Inc Men's 50-Over SP (Wood

Mandan Dust-Tex

Fargo Imaging Solutions
Women's C SP

Men's C FP

Bismarck Burnt Creek Club & Bar/McQuade Distributing

Women's D SP Bismarck United Printing

Women's Rec I SP Jamestown ProAm Transport

Women's Rec II East SP Thompson Farmers Elevator

Women's Rec II West SP Bismarck Lincoln Storage

Women's Rec III East SP Grand Forks Bud/Bun/Red Pepper/Toasty Frogs

Women's Rec III West SP Bismarck Coors Light 1

Women's Masters Div I SP Minot Saunders Chiropractic/Sports on Tap/Bud Light

Women's Masters Div II SP Mandan Lady T-Hawks

Women's Masters Div

Grand Forks Coca Cola

Women's Masters Div IV SP Pingree 281 Stop

YOUTH

Girls' A 14-Under SP Williston Adducci All Stars

Girls' B 14-Under SP Cooperstown

Girls' A 16-Under SP Valley City Girls' B 16-Under SP Dickinson Pepsi Cola All Stars

Girls' A 18-Under SP Valley City

Girls' B 18-Under SP Pembina

OTHER

Coed Div I SP Fargo Bob Footit

Coed Div II SP Fessenden Krahler's Softball Coed Div III SP Fargo Playmakers

Coed Div IV SP Tappen Roadhouse

Oakland ADULT

Men's B FP Romie's Angels

Men's C FP Bay Area High Reach

YOUTH

Girls' B 10-Under FP Stompers West

Girls' A 12-Under FP Mayericks

Girls' B 12-Under FP Stompers

Girls' A 14-Under FP Sorcerer

Girls' B 14-Under FP Synergy

Girls' A 16-Under FP Nuggets

Girls' B 16-Under FP Phantom

Girls' A 18-Under FP Synergy

Girls' B 18-Under FP East Bay Blaze

Oklahoma ADULT

Men's A SP All-Star Plumbing

Men's B SP BNK Mortgage

Men's C SP Team Yak

Men's D SP Frozen Ropes Men's E SP Sonic Baserunners

Men's F SP

Men's C Church SP New Hope FWB

Men's B Church SP Calvary FWB

Men's A Church SP Christ the King

Men's 40-Over SP Ten Old Men (G-Men) Men's 50-Over SP Ten Old Men (G-Men)

Women's D SP DBC/Team Combat

Women's E SP Marcy's

YOUTH

Girls' 10-Under SP OKC Sox

Girls' 8-Under A Coach Pitch Muskogee Impact

Girls' 8-Under B Coach Pitch Muskogee Heat

Girls' 8-Under Machine Pitch OKC Ice

Girls' 8-Under Machine Pitch Aline Tigers

Girls' 12-Under SP

Girls' 14-Under SP OK Connexion

Girls' 18-Under A FP The Original Ultimate

Girls' 16-Under A FP OK Fusion

Girls' 14-Under A FP Keota

Girls' 14-Under B FP Sliders

Girls' 14-Under C FP

Girls' 12-Under A FP OK Intimidators

Girls' 12-Under B FP

Girls' 12-Under C FP

OK Machine

Cache Lady Bulldogs

Girls' 10-Under A FP OK Force 95

Girls' 10-Under B FP Kaos

Girls' 10-Under C FP Talihina Lady Tigers

OTHER

Coed A SP No results

Coed B SP Knuckleheads

Coed C SP Davis SW Auction

Coed D SP Cats

Philadelphia ADULT

Men's Major SP Gero's

Men's A SP Fluke's

Men's B SP Todd Brown Equipment

Men's C SP Chickie & Petes

Men's D SP A & B Contracting

Men's E SP Daddy O's

Reth Or

Men's Major Industrial SP Boyle

Men's A Industrial SP

Men's 35-Over SP

Mollys Men's 50-Over SP Morrell Tavern

Morrell Tavern Men's 55-Over SP Not Yet Over the Hill

Men's 70-Over SP Over the Hill 70's

Men's A Modified Cruz

Women's B SP Friends of Ryan

Women's C SP Ozzies

Women's D SP NEWSL

Women's 10 Modified Showtime

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP District #10

Girls' B 10-Under FP District #10

Girls' A 12-Under FP

Somerton
Girls' B 12-Under FP

Mayfair

Girls' A 14-Under FP Vogt Girls' B 14-Under FP Holmesburg

Girls' A 16-Under FP NEO

Girls' B 16-Under FP Fillies

Girls' B 18-Under FP 21st Ward

OTHER

Coed Major SP Panthers

Coed A SP Rebeels

Coed B SP Guards

Wood Bat Recreational SP Chickie & Petes

Wood Bat Recreational Sunday League SP MFAT

Pennsylvania ADULT

Men's B FP Bob Hoffman's

Men's C FP Bonnell's

Men's C Church FP Garden Sport

Men's D Church FP Garden Spot

Men's C SP Wagner Farms/EFX

Men's D SP Team Apex

Men's 35-Over SP Brickyard

Men's 35-Over D SP Frosty Hook

Men's 35-Over Recreation SP Talley Whackers Men's 40-Over SP AIA/Enola Sportsmen

Men's 45-Over SP Big Dogs/Restano's

Men's 50-Over SP TNT

Men's 60-Over SP Spring Ford A.A. Spring Ford A.A. Red

Men's D Church SP St. Matthews Men's Major Open Modified Ground Zero

Men's 9 Man Open Modified Ground Zereo

Men's A 9 Man Modified LH Brubaker Men's B 9 Man Modified

Men's C 9 Man Modified Worship Center

Lamp Post Inn

Men's A 10 Man Modified Marlins

Men's B 10 Man Modified Bison Bulls

Men's C 10 Man Modified Bull Dawgs

Men's D 10 Man Modified O'Neal's Pub

Men's 10 Man Church Landingville

Women's B FP Pine Forge Ladies

Women's C FP Lady Lyons Women's Open SP Metro Sports

Women's C SP Forry's Auto Body

Women's D SP West Gate

Women's 35-Over SP After the Game

YOUTH

Girls' 10-Under SP Greencastle All Stars

Girls' 12-Under SP New Cumberland All Stars

Girls' 14-Under SP West Shore Hotshots

Girls' 18-Under SP Suburban Girls' B 10-Under FP Donegal Rheems

Girls' A 12-Under FP

Girls' B 12-Under FP MC Rockers

Bristol Stars

Girls' A 14-Under FP Central PA. Crunch

Girls' B 14-Under FP Cumberland Cty Magic Girls' A 16-Under FP Horsham Banshees

Girls' B 16-Under FP Lady Patriots

Girls' A 18-Under FP East Norriton Hartbreakers

Girls' B 18-Under FP Falcons

OTHER

Coed C SP Weekend Warriors

Coed D SP Pit'n Pub

Piedmont Virginia ADULT

Men's C SP Golden Coral

Men's D SP Taylor's

YOUTH

Girls' A 12-Under FP Extreme Force Blue

Girls' A 14-Under FP Class Action Scrappers

Girls' A 16-Under FP Class Action Scrappers

Girls' A 18-Under FP Central Virginia Blue Ice

OTHER

Coed B SP Greg Herring Roofing

Rhode Island

Men's D SP Spumoni's

Men's E SP Patrtiaca Law

YOUTH

Girls' A 8-Under SP Smithfield

Girls' B 8-Under SP Apponaug

Girls' 10-Under SP CLCF

Girls' 12-Under SP CLCF

Girls' 14-Under SP CLCF

Girls' 16-Under SP Darlington Girls' B 10-Under FP Smithfield

Girls' B 14-Under FP Apponaug

St. Louis ADULT

Girls' B 10-Under FP Esprit

Girls' B 12-Under FP Spirit (Morris)

Girls' A 14-Under FP Legion of Doom

Girls' A 16-Under FP Team Unity

Girls' B 16-Under FP Shock

Girls' A 18-Under FP Chaos

Girls' B 18-Under FP Royal Sports

Sacramento ADULT

Men's D SP ICM

Men's E SP Mashers

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Foothill Gold

Girls' B 10-Under FP Cordova Furv

Girls' A 12-Under FP California Rapids

Girls' B 12-Under FP Roseville Thunder Red

Girls' A 14-Under FP Lady Magic

Girls' B 14-Under FP Folsom Aftershock

Girls' A 16-Under FP Lady Magic Girls' A 18-Under FP California Breeze

South Dakota ADULT

Men's Div I SP Viessman's Trucking/Chuk-N-Duk

Men's Div II SP Redbirds

Men's East Div III SP Sioux Falls Fence

Men's West Div III SP Olsen Plumbing

Men's East Div IV SP Garst Seed/Mike Metter Sales

Men's West Div IV SP Super 8

Men's 35-Over 14" SP Lagers/Coors Light

Men's A 14" SP Zoo/Huff Construction

Men's B 14" SP Stahl Insurance/TN Tax

Men's C 14" SP Waverly Steakhouse

Men's 16" SP Zoo/Huff Construction

Men's Open FP Sioux Falls Sox Men's A FP Ramona

Men's Masters FP Scarlett O'Hara's

Women's 35-Over SP (upper division) Clems/Boomers

Women's 35-Over SP (lower division) Platte Ladies

Women's Div I SP Shenanigan's/Ramkota

Women's Div II SP Golden Isle Casino

Women's Div III SP Roys Sport Shop

Women's East Div IV SP Frankfort Ladies

Women's West Div IV SP Weta River Rats

Women's East Div V SP Kroeplin Ag Women's West Div V SP A1 Bail Bonds/Champs

Women's East Div VI SP

Women's West Div VI SP Photos Today

YOUTH

Boys' 12-Under SP Housemasters

Boys' 14-Under SP Dollar Loan Center

Boys' 16-Under SP Agronomics

Boys' 18-Under SP Reliabank/Costello

Boys' 12-Under FP Jmac

Girls' 12-Under SP North East Orthodontics

Girls' 14-Under SP McDonald's

Girls' 16-Under SP American Home

Girls' 18-Under SP Young's Prime Time Sports Girls' 12-Under Modified FP

Vermillion Blaze
Girls' 14-Under Modified FP
Springfield

Girls' 16-Under Modified FP Hurricanes

Girls' 18-Under Modified FP

Girls' 12-Under FP

Springfield

Girls' 14-Under FP Yankton Fury

Girls' 16-Under FP Fusion

Girls' 18-Under FP Flames White

OTHER

Coed B SP Lagers

Coed C SP SoDak Construction

South Florida YOUTH

Girls' A 12-Under FP Coral Springs Panthers Girls' A 14-Under FP Palm Beach Gardens Lady Gators

Girls' A 16-Under FP West Pines Diamonds

Girls' A 18-Under FP Miami Stingrays

Tennessee ADULT

Men's D SP CTS Softball

Dusters

Men's East E SP Rounders

Men's West E SP Storm-Absolute

Men's A Industrial SP Maytag

Men's B Industrial SP Assemblers

Men's Church SP East Maryville Baptist

Men's B Church SP Mixed Religion

Men's One-Pitch SP Quaker Steak & Lube

Women's East E SP Hillbilly Bandits

Women's West E SP Stage Coach

YOUTH

Girls' 8-Under East Coach Pitch Astros

Girls' 8-Under West Coach Pitch Crushers

Girls' 10-Under East Rec FP Storm

Girls' 10-Under West Rec FP Raptors

Girls' 12-Under East Rec FP

Lady Vols

Girls' 12-Under West Rec FP Mud Dawgs

Girls' A 14-Under FP

GA Heat

Girls' 14-Under Rec West FP Heat

Girls' A 16-Under FP Cruisers

Girls' 16-Under West Rec FP Heat

Girls' A 18-Under FP Nighthawks

OTHER

Coed B SP KMK Acres

Texas ADULT

Men's A/B SP Hipp Productions

Men's C SP Budweiser

Men's D SP Whut It Dew

Men's 35-Over SP Abby's Printing Spurs

Men's Church SP Our Lady of Sorrow

Men's Industrial SP Oilers

Men's FP Castro Concrete

Women's SP

YOUTH

Girls' 6-Under North Pixie Bratz

Girls' 6-Under South Pixie Power

Girls' 8-Under North Pixie

Heat

Girls' 8-Under South Pixie T-N-T

Girls' A 10-Under FP

Girls' B 10-Under FP Pearland Power

Girl's C 10-Under FP EMC Klassic

Girls' A 12-Under FP 93 Texas Splash

Girls' B 12-Under FP Lil Lady Loboes

Girls' C 12-Under FP Code Red Girls' A 14-Under FP Texas Impulse

Girls' B 14-Under FP

Girls' C 14-Under FP Sudden Impact

Girls' A 16-Under FP Texas Avengers

Girls' B 16-Under FP Texas Thunder

Girls' A 18-Under FP Centex Babes

Girls' B 18-Under FP East Texas Blast

OTHER

Coed SP Choppers

Utah YOUTH

Girls' A 12-Under FP Strikers

Girls' A 14-Under FP SI Flames

Girls' A 16-Under FP Bad to the Bone

Girls' 18-Under FP Thunderbirds

Vermont ADULT

Men's C SP J.C. Softball

Men's D SP Full Rut

Men's E SP Energizer

Women's C SP ECP Wildthings

Women's D SP Clarks Moving

OTHER

Coed A SP C & T Softball

Coed B SP Juicers

Washington ADULT

Girls' B 10-Under FP Taters

Girls' A 12-Under FP Khoas Girls' B 12-Under FP llosh

Girls' A 14-Under FP Vancouver Power

Girls' B 14-Under FP Illusion

Girls' A 16-Under FP Clark Co. Bulldogs

Girls' B 16-Under FP Fury

Girls' A 18-Under FP Simply Wild Rebels

Wisconsin ADULT

Men's C SP Timber Technologies

Men's D SP Comatose

Men's B 10-Man Modified Steve Fischer Construction

Men's C 10-Man Modified Eagles of Fond du Lac

Women's A FP Wisconsin Surge

Women's Modified Crossroads

YOUTH

Girls' A 10-Under FP Kenosha Cyclones

Girls' B 10-Under FP South Appleton Rockers

Girls' A 12-Under FP Racine Belles

Girls' B 12-Under FP

Girls' A 14-Under FP Competitors Black

Girls' B 14-Under FP Plover 14U

Girls' A 16-Under FP Chippewa Valley Flash

Girls' B 16-Under FP Halue Hot Rodders

Girls' A 18-Under FP Precision Fastpitch

Girls' B 18-Under FP Wisconsin Elite

> Wyoming ADULT

Men's B SP Gillette Softball Club

Men's C SP

Men's D SP Doc's Jr. Jocks

TCB

YOUTH

Girls' B 10-Under FP Cheyenne Extreme

Girls' B 12-Under FP Cheyenne Thunder Cheyenne Extreme

Girls' C 12-Under FP Casper Diamonds

Girls' 12-Under Recreation FP

Cheyenne Comets
Girls' B 14-Under FP

Cheyenne Extreme

Girls' C 14-Under FP Casper Diamonds

Girls' 14-Under Recreation FP Chevenne Scorpions

Girls' B 16-Under FP Glenrock Cheyenne Thunder

Girls' C 16/18 FP Casper Diamonds

Girls' 16/18 Recreation FP Casper Riot

Girls' B 18-Under FP Cheyenne Extreme

OTHER

Coed B SP Doc's Ball Badies

Coed Recreation SP Atlantic Roofing

FITTED PRO MESH UMP CAP WITH EMBROIDERED **ASA® LETTERS**

#402FM Full Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, fitted navy Pro-Mesh cap. #402BM 3/4 Field, 2 1/2-inch 6-stitch bill, fitted navy Pro-Mesh cap. #402PM Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill, fitted navy Pro-Mesh cap. (*see available sizes in fitted cap

\$17.00

FITTED WOOL CAP WITH **EMBROIDERED ASA® LETTERS**

#402FL Full Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap. #402BL 3/4 Field, 2 1/2-inch 6-stitch

bill, fitted navy wool cap. #402PL Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.

(*see available sizes in fitted cap \$15.00

ADJUSTABLE UMP CAP WITH EMBROIDERED **ASA® LETTERS**

#402FSL Full Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, navy mesh cap. Adjusts to S-M (6 3/4 to 7 1/8) \$14.00

#402FLL Full Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, navy mesh cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 1/4 to 7 3/4)

#402FWL Full Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill. navy wool cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 1/4 to 7 3/4)

#402BLL 3/4 Field, 2 1/2-inch 6-stitch bill. navy wool cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 1/4 to 7 3/4)

#402PPLL Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill. navy wool cap. Adjusts to L-XL (7 1/4 to 7 3/4) \$15.00

FITTED UMP CAP (NO LETTERS)

#402FP Full Field, 3-inch 8-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap. #402BP 3/4 Field, 2 1/2-inch 6-stitch

bill, fitted navy wool cap. #402PP Plate, 2-inch 4-stitch bill, fitted navy wool cap.

(*see available sizes in fitted cap chart.)





402BLL

(S-M) #402FLL (L-XL)

Adjustable

#402FWL

(L-XL)

Adjustable

N/A

Adjustable Adjustable

2-inch

4-stitch bill

#402PM

SIZE 6 1/2 - 8

#402PL

SIZE 6 1/2 - 8

N/A

#402PPLL

(L-XL)

#402BLL (L-XL)

Adjustable Adjustable

00 402BP Serge

#402FP SIZE 6 7/8 - 7 3/4

SIZE 6 7/8 - 7 3/4

#402BP

#402PP

SIZE 6 7/8 - 7 3/4

Head Meas: 20 1/2 20 7/8 21 1/4 21 5/8 22 22 3/8 22 3/4 23 1/8 23 1/2 23 7/8 24 1/4 24 5/8 25 Head Meas: 6 3/4 - 7 1/8 7 1/4 -	Cap Size:	6 1/2	6 5/8	6 3/4	6 7/8	7	7 1/8	7 1/4	7 3/8	7 1/2	7 5/8	7 3/4	7 7/8	8	1	Cap Size:	S-M	L-XL
	Head Meas:	20 1/2	20 7/8	21 1/4	21 5/8	22	22 3/8	22 3/4	23 1/8	23 1/2	23 7/8	24 1/4	24 5/8	25	L	Head Meas:	6 3/4 - 7 1/8	7 1/4 - 7 3/4

Serge \$15.00

Wool 5



Fechheimer® Men's polyester knit pants with metal zipper closure. Pant features snug fit, rubberized waistband-2 zones of stretch, two western-cut pockets, creases set and pressed.

#PG Gray Men's Base pants - Waist size: 28-54 #PGW Gray Women's Base pants - Size: 8-20	\$45.00 \$45.00
#PB Navy Men's Base pants - Waist size: 28-54	\$45.00
#PBW Navy Women's Base pants - Size: 8-20	\$45.00

Same as Umpire Base Pants (description above) with fuller cut to accommodate shin guards.

#PPG	Gray	Men's	Plate	pants	-	Waist	size:	28-54	\$4	17.00
#PPB	Navv	Men's	Plate	pants	_	Waist	size:	28-54	\$4	17.00

UMP POLO WZASA® LETTERS

#130 ASA® approved Pro-Style Polo Shirt with ASA® embroidered on chest. Shirt features Polyester Air mesh fabric, moisture absorbant finish, soil release fabric, 3 button placket. extended length cut split-tail, colorfast.

Size: S,M,L,XL	\$25.00
Size: XXL	\$27.00
Size: XXXL	\$29.00
Size: XXXXL	\$31.00
Size: XXXXXL (#130 polo shirt only)	\$35.00
#135 Same as above W/O ASA letters	
#138 Same as #135 with left chest pocket	

UMP POLO WZASA® LETTERS

embroidered on chest. Shirt features Polyester Air mesh fabric, moisture absorbant finish, soil release fabric, 3 button placket, extended length cut split-tail, colorfast

Size: S,M,L,XL	\$25.00
Size: XXL	\$27.00
Size: XXXL	\$29.00
Size: XXXXL	\$31.00
Size: XXXXXL (#140 polo shirt only)	\$35.00
#145 Same as above W/O ASA letters	

#1006 White Hanes Beefy-T, with ASA Umpire screened on left chest 100% cotton preshrunk

Size: M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL	\$15.00
#1005 Same as above in Navy with white print.	
Size: M. L. XL. XXL. XXXL	\$15.00

LOOSEWEAR UNDERSHIRT

#1003 McDavid Performance Loosewear undershirt. White, short-sleeve polyester Microfiber Mock neck. Umpire cut sleeves. Designed to be worn under an umpire shirt.

Size: S-XL	\$25.00
Size: XXL-XXXL	\$27.00
#1002 Same as above in Navv.	

UMPIRE MOCK TURTLEHECK

#1007 White long sleeve mock turtleneck with navy ASA® on collar, 100% extra heavyweight cotton, double needle stitching on neck and bottom hem, ribbed cuffs.

Size: L, XL	\$19.00
Size: XXL,	\$21.00
#4000 C I- N	



LEISURE CAP

#L2001 Five-Panel twill cap 100% cotton mid profile with Velcro closure, Fashion Curve Bill, Color Navy. Front embroidered with Leisure Umpire Logo. \$15.00

LEISURE VISOR

#L2010 Navy color, 100% Three-Panel construction, self fabric sweatband. Velcro closure. Front embroidered with ASA Umpire in white

LEISURE PULLOVER JACKET

#L2040 Vneck Wind Shirt with stripe trim 100% nylon shell/100% cotton flannel body lining, nylon lined sleeves for easy on/off. Full Cut solid knit waistband, stripped collar and cuffs. Side seam pockets. Color Navy embroidered with Leisure Umpire Logo.

Size L - XXL

#L2030 Zip Sideline Jacket 100% nylon shell with light weight flannel body lining, nylon lined sleeves for easy on/off. Color Navy embroidered with Leisure Umpire Logo.

Size L - XXL \$49.00

LEISURE POLO

#L2020 Pique Knit heavyweight fabric. 100% ring spun cotton, welt collar. Left breast embroidered with Leisure Umpire Logo. Color Navy Size I - XXI

WARM UP PANTS

#L2050 Nylon Pant 100% outer w/poly/cotton jersey lining from the knees to waist, nylon lines the lower leg for easy on/off. Waistband drawstring extended leg zipper, elastic cuffs, side seam pockets, back zippered pocket. Color Navy with ASA Umpire embroidered down one leg. Size L - XXL

\$49.00

HOODIE SIIIFATSHIRT

#L2060 Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt. 9 oz 60/40/ rung spun combed cotton. With rib knit cuffs, twill taping inside. Set in sleeves. Kangaroo pouch pockets with matching draw chord. Color Navy embroidered with Leisure Umpire Logo. Size L - XXL

\$49.00

UMPIRE SWEATSHIRT

#L2070 Pullover Sweatshirt. 9 oz 60/40/ rung spun combed cotton. With rib knit cuffs, twill taping inside. Set in sleeves. Color Navy embroidered with Leisure Umpire Logo.

\$39.00

#L2072 Same as above in gray

Size L - XXL

\$39.00

ORDER BY PHONE 1-800-654-8337

ULTRAJOC

#CPJ Black short combines traditional jock with a 85/15% Nylon/LYCRA® support girdle. Features comfortable form fitting pouch, that can be used with or without athletic cup, provides support for hamstring, groin and abdominal muscles. Size: M 30-34, L 34-38, XL 38-42, XXL 42-46

#CPP Same as Above but in Long Pant Style Size: M 30-34, L 34-38, XL 38-42, XXL 42-46

\$39.00

#CB60 Ultrajoc Hard Cup.

Traditional hard cup designed to fit Ultrajoc #CPJ and CCP (above). Durable, Copolymer cup with soft rubber gasket.

UMPIRE SHORTS

#TW Teamwork® ASA® approved. Navy Umpire short features Pro Weight 14 oz polyester fabric, relaxed roomy cut, westernstyle front pockets, dual welted inset rear pockets, metal zipper closure, Pro Gripper waitband and a 7" inseam. Size: S 28-30. M 32-34.

L 36-38, XL 40-42, \$25.00 Size: XXL 44-46 \$28.00 Size: XXXL 48-50 \$30.00

FULL ZIP-FRONT LINED JACKET

(HAUY)

#2003 ASA® approved. ASA® lettering on left chest, inset sleeves, knit collar, cuffs, waistband and two slash pockets.

Size: S, M, L, XL \$47.00 Size: XXL \$50.00 Size: XXXL \$54.00

FULL ZIP-FRONT LINED JACKET

#2007 No logo, inset sleeves, knit collar, cuffs, waistband and two slash pockets.

Size: S. M. L. XL \$47.00 Size: XXL \$50.00 Size: XXXI \$54.00

U-NECK PULL-OUER LINED JACKET

#2005 ASA® approved. ASA® lettering on left chest, inset

sleeves, knit collar, cuffs, waistband and a pouch pocket. Size: S. M. L. XL \$45.00 Size: XXI \$47.00 Size: XXXI \$49.00

UMPIRE GARMENT BAG

#2008 Keep your uniform clean with this durable, navy ASA garment bag. Features inside loop for hangers and external locker strap. Will hold several shirts and jacket.





ORDER ONLINE @ OFFICIALGEAR.COM



UMPIRE BAG

#8038 IEUI Diamond wheel umpire equipment bag. Heavy Duty 840D fabric, Two compartments to separate protective gear from clothes, Separate breathable head gear compartment to allow air dry, End panel and compartments adjust to your needs, Easy glide wheels, 15"x16"x36.

#5030 Deluxe Equipment Bag will hold uniform, jacket, shoes and a full set of plate gear. Waterproof fabric, 3" wide zippered pockets on each end of bag, zippered 9'x9" exterior pocket for keys and valuables, web handle and adjustable shoulder strap. Measures 12"x12"x26" \$33.00

BALL BAGS

Inside pocket for indicator and broom. Matches umpire pants. #300Gray \$11.00 #300Navy \$11.00 #300NCP Navy (no logo) \$11.00

#620 Bat Ring .50¢

\$2.50

#TAG Plastic indicator-shaped luggage tag.

#UPBR Wood handle nylon bristle plate brush with ASA® logo. \$4.00

#700 Plastic bat ring handle nylon bristle plate brush. \$7.00

INDICATORS

#530 Plastic-molded indicator. Records balls, strikes and outs. \$3.50

#530I 3/2 Plastic-molded indicator. Records balls, strikes, outs and innings. \$4.00

#530S 3/2 Stainess steel indicator. Records balls, strikes and outs \$4.00

FLIP COINS

#632 ASA 75th Anniversary Flip Coin \$4.00 #633 ASA Shield/Umpire Logo coin \$4.00 #625 Mask / Indicator Flip Coin \$4.00

#640 Line-Up Card Holder \$3.00

EASTON DIAMOND FLARE® SUNGLASSES

#5400 Coated lenses meet ANSI Z80.3 standard for effective UV ray protection. Polycarbonate lens construction for maximum impact resistance. \$29.00

| BRIMZ® EYEWEAR

#5300 Brimz® Fashion-Sport Eyewear are as comfortable to wear as they are fashionable. Clips directly to the bill of your cap. Flips down as needed. \$16.00

#L2005 Coffee Mug 11 oz. Navy Irontone Coffee Mug. Features Umpire Leisure Logo on two sides. \$5.00



ORDER BY PHONE 1-800-654-8337

SOCKS (SINGLE PAIR PACKS)

20%Nylon, Size: 10-13

#CA100 Navy crew sock, 80% Orlon/20% Nylon, reinforced heel and toe. Size: 10-13 \$4.00 **MCA199 White tube shocks, 80% Orlon/20% Nylon, cushion foot and navy stripes. Approved to wear with shorts.

\$5.00

SOCKS (PACKS OF THREE PAIR) NEW!

#CA300 3pk White crew sock with ASA/logo. Dri-comfort® polyester with Dri Stitch (dries 4x faster than cotton), 360 degree mesh allows air flow and moisture evaporation. FreshTech® odor protection technology neutralizes odor. Size 10-13. ■ \$14.00

#CA399 3pk Navy crew socks, same as above. Size 10-13 \$14.00

#CA400 3pk Ankle Socks with ASA/logo. Dri-comfort® polyester with Dri Stitch (dries 4x faster than cotton), 360 degree mesh allows air flow and moisture evaporation. FreshTech® odor protection technology neutralizes odor. Size 9-11 \$13.00 \$

SPOT-BILT® PLATE SHOE

#1011 Full grain leather, Mid-high ankle support, Molded Polyurethane Midsole, Removable Insole, Non-Marking slip resistant Carbon Rubber modified lug outsole.

Sizes: men's 7-12 in half sizes and 13.

\$98.00

RIVAL® BASE SHOE

#1013 Features 3/4 top for great ankle support. Leather upper. Lug/Cleat outsole configuration gives superior traction on natural or artificial surfaces.

Sizes: men's 6-12 in half sizes and 13 \$35.00

SPOT-BILT® TURF SHOE

6. SEE CHART BELOW.)

#1010 Full grain leather turf shoe with multi-purpose studded cleated outsole for traction, perfed vamp for breathability. Sizes: men's 7-12 in half sizes and 13. \$55.00 (To convert#1010, #1011 and #1013 to Women's size subtract 1/2 size from Men's sizes. If you wear size 7 1/2, order size

SHOF RAG

#750 Tote and store shoes or other items in this black, nylon, draw-string shoe bag. \$5.00

RELT

#LUU Black Leather belt. 1 1/2" with silver buckle. Size: 28-50

#RFB Rubberized, adjustable flex belt. Worn inside pant to hold in shirt tail. Fits sizes up to 45" \$15.00

LEATHER LUSTER®

#615 Shine up your leather and keep it that way! Each package contains everything you need for clean and lusterous leather. This product can only be shipped UPS ground. \$12.00



WOMENS SHOE CONVERSIONS

WOMEN	IS	MEN	ıs
10 1/2.		9	
10		8 1/	2
9 1/2		8	
9		7 1/	2
8 1/2		7	
8		6 1/	2
7 1/2		6	
1		-	_





#750 (Shoes not included)

#1013

\$13.00









ORDER ONLINE @ OFFICIALGEAR.COM



MASKS

#5006P IEUI Wilson Mask – Wear what the Professional Umps wear. The Wilson 10" Chrome Moliben Alloy Face Mask. Absorbent leather padding. Higher visibility single bar construction. Velcro adjustments. Black color. 1b 10 oz. \$79.00

#5006 Light-weight extended frame mask with amara pad set. 1lb. 12 oz. \$59.00

#5006V Light-weight extended frame mask with vinyl pad set. 2 lb. \$29.00

#5001 Black impact resistant plastic throat guard extension.

#5003 Black mask replacement strap set.

#4901 Treated Leather replacement pad set. \$19.00

#4905 All black Leather Wilson® replacement pad set.

\$27.00

\$7.50

LEG GUARDS - NO KNEE, SINGLE KNEE, DOUBLE KNEE PROTECTION

#5012 Diamond double-knee leg guards. Full calf and ankle wings, extra long hinged instep/foot cap especially important for umpires who don't wear protective footwear. "Posi-Fit 17.5" \$49.00

#5012M Diamond double-knee leg guards. Full calf and ankle wings, extra long hinged instep/foot cap especially important for umpires who don't wear protective footwear. "Posi-Fit 15.5" \$49.00

#5012S Diamond double-knee leg guards. Full calf and ankle wings, extra long hinged instep/foot cap especially important for umpires who don't wear protective footwear. "Posi-Fit 13.0" \$49.00

#5013 Single-knee, black leg guards with adjustable elastic leg straps, padded ankle and instep. "Posi-Fit 15.0" **\$29.00**

#5013M Single-knee, black leg guards with adjustable elastic leg straps, padded ankle and instep. "Posi-Fit 12.5" \$29.00

#5014 Soccer style leg guards. Light weight designed to be worn under socks 13" \$9.00

FIT GUIDE FOR LEG GUARDS

Leg Guards are measured from center of knee cap to bottom of shin plate (excluding toe cap). To determine Posi-Fit size, measure leg from middle of knee to top of ankle.

ORDER BY PHONE 1-800-654-8337

WILSON CHEST PROTECTOR NEW!

#5011 Wilson Pro Fitted 13" Chest Protector. Patented adjustable breastplate for optimal fit. Velcro padding for easier maintenance. Added shoulder protection. Stitched plastic for added durability. Charcoal color. \$79.00

DIAMOND ix3 CHEST PROTECTOR NEW!

#5010 Plastic three layer foam for unsurpassed protection and comfort. adjustable arm pads to customize the fit to your specific needs. Lined with CoolMax fabric for moisture management. Removable sizing plate included. 14" body length (without sizing plate) 18.5" body length (with sizing plate) \$59.00 \$

MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT INSIDE CHEST PROTECTOR

#5007 Contoured lightweight high-density padding, satin/twill fabric for comfort and moisture absorption, attached high gauge shoulder caps, 16.5" body length.

19" x 17" \$39.00

CHAMPRO UENTILATED CHEST PROTECTOR

#5020 Molded high impact shoulder caps, adjustable shoulder and back straps. Vents in the protector allow for maximum air circulation.

18" x 17" \$39.00

LIGHTWEIGHT INSIDE CHEST PROTECTOR

#5009 Professional low rebound high-density memory foam, extended shoulder coverage, One-touch buckles, breathable fabric. 16" body length.

18" x 18" \$29.00



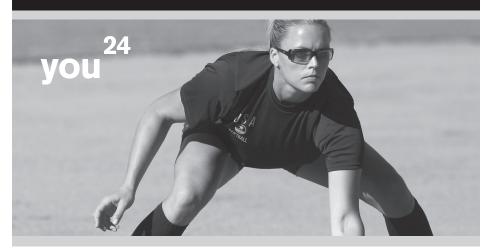
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